

Book Reviews

Dynamics, Exposure and Hazard Assessment of Toxic Chemicals, by R. Haque (Ed.), Ann Arbor Science Publishers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1980, 496 pp.

The American Chemical Society has sponsored many excellent seminars that have resulted in good books, and this is another one. The title of the ACS seminar paralleled that of the book: "The Dynamics, Exposure and Hazard Assessment of Toxic Chemicals in the Environment". Haque, who works for the Office of Research and Development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, has collected, edited and indexed 31 papers that were presented at the ACS, September 1978, Miami Beach meeting.

The genesis of the seminar was the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976. This U.S. law aims at control of chemical hazards and could potentially require expensive toxicological testing of many industrial chemicals.

Several of the initial papers deal with historic events pertaining to transport and fate studies as related to TSCA. Several others deal with the chemistry and mathematics of environmental transportation and degradation and others deal with the chemistry and mathematics of environmental transportation, degradation and dispersion. A third and final category contains papers concerned with the testing of chemicals for hazard evaluation.

Having recently reviewed two books dealing with this topic, by Thibodeaux and Neely, I found the papers particularly interesting and timely. They are well worth reading.

TSCA has not had the negative impact some believed it would, but its potential impact and benefit are well discussed in the book.

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First Aid Manual for Chemical Accidents, by Marc J. Lefèvre, Academic Press, New York, 1980, 218 pp., soft cover, price: £11.00, ISBN 0-12-786 938-7

The opening paragraph of the editorial preface of this volume refers to the lack of books on first aid aimed at the employee in the workplace. This is not necessarily a statement applicable in the United Kingdom where the excellent texts like Trevethick and the manuals put out by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade are readily available. However, usually either the approach is different or the scope is limited. This book was conceived by a physician active in the chemical industry.

By using an ingenious method of indexing and colour coding, first aid