

aspect for this reviewer was the lack of agreement on the crucial question of the density of ammonia-air mixtures. Cremer and Warner have clearly taken on board the work on this subject in the 1978 Canvey Report, but UKF's position, as stated in Part 5 and Blanken's Appendix, is grossly optimistic in the light of the Canvey Study work on this subject. Blanken's paper (dated 1979) makes no reference at all to the 1978 Canvey Study.

With so much money and time spent one would have hoped that there would have been the opportunity for better communication and agreement on such technical matters. For all this, the report is an important publication in a contentious area, and those involved in risk analysis will want to read it; they will certainly enjoy doing so.

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*Respiratory Protection*, edited by B. Ballantyne and P.H. Schwabe, Chapman and Hall Ltd., London, 1981, 376 pp. inc. index, £20; *Detection and Measurement of Hazardous Gases*, edited by C.F. Cullis and J.G. Firth, Heinemann Educational Books Ltd., London, 1981, 226 pp. inc. index, £25; *Hazards in the Chemical Laboratory*, edited by L. Bretherick, Royal Society of Chemistry, London, 1981, 567 pp. inc. index, £15.

These three edited collections will be of particular interest and use to those concerned with various aspects of safety and protection in the laboratory and in the workplace. Bretherick has undertaken the updating of the 2nd edition published in 1976 which was edited by Muir. The current edition amply justifies the need for such a revision, and the book is excellent value. The nine chapters by various authors give an authoritative supplement to the listing of hazardous chemicals data, which makes this book that much more useful than those that simply give the data. This should be a standard reference for all concerned with laboratory safety.

Cullis and Firth bring together a worthy collection on hazardous gases, concentrating on techniques of measurement and monitoring. The chapters are well referenced and illustrated. The authors are drawn from industry, government bodies and universities, and present well founded chapters on measurement of flammable gases and vapours, oxygen deficiency, monitoring toxic gases in the workplace, personal monitoring, statistical aspects and air sampling strategies, standard atmospheres, and history and law. The book provides a good background for those with an operational concern in this field.

Ballantyne and Schwabe present 6 chapters on basic principles, including sources, physiological responses, behaviour of particles in the lung, toxic effects, and occupational health aspects. This is followed by 8 chapters on the design and manufacture of various protection devices, and 6 chapters on specific applications such as in coal mining, the asbestos industry, the nuclear industry, fire protection and disease protection. Again, the collection is

authoritative, well referenced and well illustrated. Edited collections are sometimes disappointing, but these three books show much care in the selection and co-ordination of material, and are certainly to be recommended, both for their practical usefulness and their value as introductory/reference material.

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