

the reference lists; the material involved is not accessible very easily, which is a pity. Improbable catastrophes are considered separately from other risks, and the treatment is necessarily less extensive. Since this is a topic of major public concern the study is unlikely to have much influence in that sector compared with that of the major studies carried out in the last decade. Ferguson has obviously worked hard on this project and the report contains a great deal of data of use in risk-comparison studies. The overall approach is sensible, with much care being taken to stress the limitations and uncertainties in the estimates. The cost of the report reflects, presumably, the publisher's sense of the likely market, and its size. Those directly involved in the field will want to read the report, which is a commendable piece of work, but not all that many will be able to justify purchasing their own copy.

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*Sourcebook on Asbestos Diseases: Medical, Legal and Engineering Aspects*, G.A. Peters and B.J. Peters, Garland STPM Press, New York, 1980, ISBN 0-8240-7175-1, 457 pages incl. index, price \$46.00.

Anyone undertaking any serious study of asbestos will find this book very valuable. The bias is towards legal aspects, as one might expect from the fact that the authors are both in the legal profession in California (although G.A. Peters is also a registered professional engineer and a licensed psychologist). It is principally United States law that is described, so this section will have a narrower readership than the rest of the book. The main sections deal with Products, Medical Aspects, Controls and Protection, Legal Aspects, Warnings, and a Personal Questionnaire (for claims). There is a massive chronological bibliography, of 162 pages, and the International Labor Organisation's classification of radiographs of pneumoconioses (1971) is reprinted as an appendix. This is indeed a sourcebook of some weight, and should find a niche on the bookshelves of those concerned with this important topic. The price is reasonable.

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