

Information Resources in Toxicology, by Philip Wexler, Elsevier/North Holland, New York, Amsterdam, Oxford, 1982, ISBN 0-444-00616-8, 291 pages plus index, Dfl. 113.00, \$50.00.

As pointed out in the preface, the literature in toxicology is proliferating at a phenomenal rate, and many on-line services are available. However, little attention has been given to directing the seeker to the major sources of information.

In this volume, the basic books are covered, such as general textbooks, analytical, biotoxins, carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, teratogenesis, and by use, such as cosmetics, drugs, foods, metals, pesticides, and veterinary toxicology. Special monographs are covered, such as the IARC Monographs and scientific publications, and the NAS/NRC studies of environmental pollutants. Audiovisuals, microforms and card files, abstracts and other current awareness publications are noted. Organizations are classified by governmental, nongovernmental, and federal coordinative groups. Legislation and regulations are presented, and international activities given. Education, such as universities offering graduate programs in toxicity, are noted, as is information handling, and journal articles. Especially significant is the directory of poison control centers in the U.S., each with telephone number and address (unfortunately, the Canadian centers are not included).

In general, the book is an interesting check-list and directory for anyone who wonders who knows what in the field of toxicity.

H.H. FAWCETT

Trace Substances and Health, A Handbook, Part II, by Paul M. Newberne (Ed.), Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York and Basel, 1982, 155 pages plus author and subject index, \$27.50.

The first part of this series dealt with natural and man-made agents which become a part of our bodies and which may have beneficial or detrimental effects on health or length of life. This volume discusses nitrates and nitrites in foods and in biological systems, nitrosamines, plant toxins, and seafood biotoxins. Each major chapter is written by persons with known expertise or experimental experience. The chapter on nitrates and nitrites, authored by Paul Newberne of M.I.T., is 45 pages, including 127 references, and discusses the toxic effects of nitrate and nitrite on man and animals, the use of nitrite and nitrate in meat preservation, botulism, nitrite as a direct cause of cancer, the M.I.T. nitrite study (1980) which, after reviewing 50,000 histologic slides, found relatively small numbers and incidence percentages of lymphoreticular tumors in the study, but tended to rule out the possibility that the carcinogenic effect of nitrite was a result of the formation of nitrosamines in the diet of the animals. In addition, treatment of