

of professional and academic personnel, including physicians, safety officers, trade unionists, architects and designers, industrial hygienists, occupational health nurses, chemists, and factory inspectors, not only in the U K but anywhere this valuable mineral has been used. When one notes that one case of asbestos disease had a forty-three year induction period, the importance of prompt and adequate controls is clearly in order.

H H FAWCETT

Toxic and Biomedical Effects of Fibers, by P Gross and D C Braun, Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1980, 257 pages, \$36

When I received this book in the mail directly from the publisher, I was surprised because a book written by medical doctors is one I would not ordinarily be interested in. However, an initial scan of the table of contents quickly allayed my fears. The subject material is of great interest to those who routinely deal with hazardous materials and are concerned about their health effects. What caught my eye quickly in the table of contents was the second chapter, Asbestos and Lung Cancer — certainly one of the key areas of current environmental/hazardous material concern.

Of course the concern with asbestos and similar materials is not a one-time exposure. The writer in the book really deals with constant exposure to and the health effects resulting therefrom of fibers such as asbestos, talc, glass, fiberglass, carbon, nickle, cotton, bagasse, nylon, rayon and aramid.

The book is mainly medical in content, delineating the impact of inhaled and ingested fibers on the lungs and the gastrointestinal tract. However, the definition of fibers (description), a survey of their uses, their chemical properties, etc., are of great interest to industrial readers.

GARY F BENNETT

Handbook of Chemical Industry Labelling, by J C O'Connor and S L Lirtzman (Eds), Noyes Publications, Park Ridge, NJ, 1984, 487 pages, \$64

Workers' right-to-know laws, which are becoming very common in the United States, and the "need-to-know" information during chemical spills or emergencies, have created a need for a comprehensive treatment of labelling in the chemical industry. The authors describe their book as a "concise treatment" of the topic. However, with 487 pages the book is hardly concise, but in view of the need to transmit information on labels in the work place, in transportation, in distribution and disposal operations, while simultaneously complying with complex government regulations,

the topic is not a simple one. O'Connor and Lirtzman have assembled a group of experts from legal firms, universities, hospitals, industries and government agencies to assist them in their task.

The book has 18 chapters, three appendices and a list of acronyms. The chapters are divided into four sections

1. Label communications
2. Science and labels
3. Product liability, regulations and labels
4. Industry standards and practices

In addition to the material obviously represented by the above section headings, information is transmitted on chemical information sources (including computerized data bases), hazard assessment, compliances with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, labels and medicine, chemical toxicity, patents and trademarks, labelling under the following U S Congressional Acts FIFRA, RCRA and TSCA, as well as requirements of CPSC, DOT and OSHA (which are federal agencies)

GARY F BENNETT

Well Body, Well Earth, The Sierra Club Environmental Health Sourcebook, by Mike Samuels and Hal Zina Bennett, Sierra Club Books, 2034 Fillmore St, San Francisco, CA 94115, 1983, 288 pages, bibliography, index, cloth \$22 50, paper \$12 95

Beginning with the birth of the planet earth and the beginnings of human life, this book considers the earth's health and human health as one. A new phrase, environmental medicine, has been introduced to convey the idea that surroundings and internal conditions interact to cause disease, and that human health and the earth's are inextricably related, forming the basis for health care in the 21st century. In a chapter on the manifold nature of disease, the point is raised that all diseases are environmental diseases, with emotional stress and emotions playing an important role. Human health as a barometer of the earth's health and the power to create a healthy world are considered.

The most valuable parts of the book for technical personnel are the sections marked "The Sourcebook", in which radiation and chemicals are discussed in terms of human interface. Short but useful discussions of acrylonitrile, aldrin/dieldrin, arsenic, asbestos, benzene, beryllium, cadmium, carbon tetrachloride, chlordane/heptachlor, BCME, chromium, DDT, dioxin, halomethane, lead, lindane, mercury, PCBs, trichloroethylene, toluene, and vinyl chloride are covered in Poisons List A. Water pollution and air pollution constitute other chapters, with benzo[a]pyrene, carbon monoxide,