

*Kirk-Othmer Concise Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*, by Martin Grayson (Executive Editor), Wiley-Interscience, New York, NY, 1985, 1318 pages, \$99.95.

To condense the knowledge regarding chemical engineering and processes into 28 volumes is a monumental undertaking; then, to condense the 28 volumes into one is an even more challenging task. In nearly two million words, this volume highlights the material in the fifteen million words of the larger work, and provides both SI and common units, carefully selected key references for each article, and hundreds of tables, charts, figures and graphs.

Each article, usually of less than two pages, is written by one or more persons with specific knowledge and expertise in the area of concern. For example, the article on Pilot Plants and Microplants is co-authored by three engineers from Exxon Research and Engineering. Plant Safety is surveyed in one and a half pages by a DuPont expert. Articles on specific compounds, such as vinyl chloride monomer and polymers, are contributed by engineers from Goodrich. The four-page chapter on Information Retrieval is especially valuable as a compendium of the many data bases and sources currently available, and reflects both the U.S.A. and Europe.

After many substances, a health and safety paragraph is given. These are not always clear; in fact, they may give little feeling for the relative danger potential of the compound. As a constructive suggestion to the editors, in view of the widespread feeling of uneasiness after Bhopal, in future editions a consistent and plainly worded warning should be included after each chemical, where this knowledge is available.

This one-volume key to the chemical technology information is clearly a reference work which will be widely used and valued for years.

H.H. FAWCETT

*Health & Safety in the Chemical Laboratory: Where Do We Go From Here?*, Special Publication No. 51, The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN, U.K., 1984, 198 pages, paperback, ISBN 0 85186 945 9, price £16.50 or \$30.00.

This book is a gem, in that it clearly outlines the difficulties which face anyone who is courageous enough to seriously tackle health and safety problems in chemical laboratories. From experience, we have learned that chem labs and their occupants are a unique challenge. The objectives of developing professional behavior, self-analysis, and willing cooperation with "health and safety procedures", especially in academe, is covered from a multi-national viewpoint, since this book is the Proceedings of a Symposium organized by the professional Affairs Board of the RSoC, under the aegis of