

What Went Wrong? Case Histories of Process Plant Disasters, by T.D. Kletz, Gulf Publishing, Houston, TX, 1985, 204 pages, \$39.95.

A recent chemical industry news release noted that 135 people have been killed by chemical accidents in the United States in the last 5 years. The same week as this report appeared, a hazardous materials newsletter I received, noted that a Congressional amendment to a Superfund bill would establish, if passed, community preparedness planning groups for hazardous chemical spills.

There is, as readers of this journal might expect, great concern about hazardous chemicals in the United States after the tragic accident with methyl isocyanate at Bhopal, India. That incident has, and will continue to have, long-ranging impacts on the chemical industry — not just in the United States but worldwide.

Kletz's book, containing more than 100 case histories of chemical plant accidents, could not have been better timed for its market release. But it is not a book written quickly to grab the "Bhopal-induced" market. Kletz has written authoritatively for many years about chemical plant safety. Indeed I have long been one of his admirers, having read several of his articles published in the American Institute of Chemical Engineer's Loss Prevention Series of publications, and this book naturally contains numerous references to his own publications — in fact in almost all the entire 18 chapters he refers to one of his many articles.

The book examines the causes and aftermaths of numerous "chemical" tragedies — almost every one of which could have been prevented. It includes hazard identification and removal, clearing choked lines, modifications, reverse flow, static electricity, tank trucks, storage tanks, human errors, labelling of equipment, stack explosions and blocked stacks, leaks, entry to vessels, isolation permits and misunderstanding of material strength in construction.

In my opinion, no chemical engineer involved in the design or safety of chemical plants should be without this book. It is simply excellent — informative, unique and well written.

GARY F. BENNETT

Recovery, Recycle and Reuse of Industrial Waste, by K.E. Noll, C.N. Haas, C. Schmidt and P. Kodukula, Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1985, ISBN 0-87371-002-9, 196 pages, \$24.95.

This book is the first of a new series of Industrial Waste Management books (that I have seen) to be produced by Lewis Publishers.

Directed at industrial engineers and managers, the book attempts to explain the underlying concepts, advantages and disadvantages of recovery,