

Book Reviews

The Chemical Industry after Bhopal, An International Symposium held in London, November 7-8, 1985, IBC Technical Services Ltd., Bath House, 56 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2EX, 1986, ISBN 0-907.822-73-8, 318 pages, £ 53.00

The release of methylisocyanate from a plant in Bhopal, on December 3, 1984, into a highly-populated area triggered a re-evaluation of health and safety procedures and practices in control of hazardous materials worldwide. This symposium explored various aspects of chemical health and safety from an international viewpoint. The 15 papers recorded represent the considered thoughts of U.K., Indian, U.S., insurance, and political evaluation experts who explored the future of the chemical and related industries as influenced by world reaction to Bhopal. Both generalizations and highly specific data are presented. For example, the paper on the pressure relief system or ERS as an internal but often overlooked part of plant design and control, by Ian Smith, is an especially strong starting point for anyone seriously concerned with re-evaluating their plant systems. The findings of the DIERS project of the American Institute of Chemical Engineering, which in 1984 resulted in consensus of techniques to accommodate two-phase flow, are highly relevant. The experiences and detailed programs of major multinational companies are presented, as well as the insurance and political (regulatory) concerns. In short, the symposium is an excellent reference for anyone who wishes to re-evaluate their operations for health and safety aspects.

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Clinical Laboratory Safety, by Susan L. Rose, J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia and London, 1984, ISBN 0-397-50615-5, 304 pages, paperback, \$24.95.

Clinical laboratories in hospitals and other biologically-oriented organizations, have unique hazards not widely appreciated and often inadequately controlled. This book, by a health scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy, reviews good practices with recommendations for hazards in clinical chemistry, blood banks, serology and radioimmunoassay, hematology, microbiology, fires, electrical and compressed gases controls, accidents, emergencies, protective devices and first aid, and laboratory waste handling and disposal. Reagents used in common practices are listed in some detail. Special problems, such as the AIDS question (over 100,000 cases were recently estimated worldwide), and the handling of "sharps", are noted. References include standards and resources for further discussion. In general, the book is an excellent primer for