

*Biotechnology and the Environment: Research and Needs*, by G.S. Onnen and A.H. Teich (Eds.), Noyes Publication, Park Ridge, NJ, 1986, ISBN 0-8155-1105-1, 170 pages, \$36.00.

This book discusses research needs relating to the effects of biotechnology on the environment. The material is based on a 1984 workshop convened to examine the manner in which the releases of genetically-altered organisms will affect the environment or indeed whether they should be released at all.

The book contains a workshop summary and four papers which cover major areas of concern: environmental effects, health effects, monitoring and quality assurance and control techniques — as each of these applies to research needs in biochemistry and the environment.

GARY F. BENNETT

*Health Aspects of the Disposal of Waste Chemicals*, by J.W. Grisham (Ed.), Pergamon Press, New York, NY, 1986, ISBN 0-08-033159-9, 454 pages, \$85.00.

This book was written by more than 40 academic scientists who reviewed the scientific literature on the biological effects of chemicals most frequently associated with the uncontrolled disposal of hazardous wastes. Based on their review, the academicians assessed the scientific evidence of association between demonstrated exposure to chemicals from 21 specific disposal sites and occurrence of human diseases and disorders.

The reviews indicated that there are few published scientific reports of health effects clearly attributed to chemicals from uncontrolled disposal sites. Only one report offered convincing evidence that severe health effects had resulted from exposure to a specific chemical. The remaining reports did not provide adequate scientific evidence of statistically significant and biologically plausible cause and effect relationships between specific chemicals and human diseases.

Specific chapters are devoted to:

- International Aspects of Chemical Waste Disposal
- Waste Chemicals of Major Concern
- Factors Influencing Human Exposure
- Assessment of Health Effects
- Epidemiology of Exposed Population
- Factors in Risk Assessment
- Chemical Exposure Health Studies
- Disposal Site Health Studies

Although the evidence of health effects is not conclusive, exposures may