

Book Reviews

Hazardous Building Materials: A Guide to the Selection of Alternatives, by S.R. Cornwell and C.G. Mand (Eds.), Associated Book Publishers, Hampshire, Great Britain, 1986, ISBN 0-419-13730-0, 140 pages, \$6.95.

Being aware of concerns (in North America at least) about the potential detrimental affect of formaldehyde (from panelling and insulation) and asbestos, I opened the book with a great deal of expectation. For me (a chemical engineer) at least, those expectations were unfilled. The discussion of material hazards was limited to 37 pages and many of those pages were devoted to an irrelevant (in my estimation) discussion of the hazards of metals, i.e. copper, chromium, zinc and iron, which the book admits present little, if few hazards. That is a comforting statement, but of little use. I would have suggested (liked) much more time spent on asbestos.

The greatest fraction of the book would be of interest to the civil (construction) engineer with data on "building data sheets" intended for "use" by those involved in the design, construction, maintenance and alteration of buildings. Data for each building sheet includes: technical requirements, decay and degradation factors, guidance notes, alternatives, technical comments, health comments and cost.

GARY F. BENNETT

Hazardous and Industrial Solid Waste Testing, by J.K. Petros, Jr., W.J. Lacy and R.A. Conway, ASTM, Philadelphia, PA, 1986, ISBN 0-8031-0430-8, 372 pages, \$52.00.

This volume is the fourth in a series of special technical publications sponsored by ASTM's Committee on waste disposal. Like the three previous volumes, this one covers a wide range of topics on solid and hazardous waste management and is "intended" to provide even greater insight into a number of waste characterization methods and to present state-of-the-art information on land treatment and disposal, incineration and risk assessment "technology" with a special emphasis on ongoing U.S. EPA sponsored research.

This volume contains 20 peer-reviewed papers in the following areas:

- Analysis and Characterization of Waste — 10 papers
- Risk Assessment/Biological Test Methods — 5 papers
- Land Treatment and Disposal Test Methods — 5 papers
- Incineration — 4 papers

Toxic and Hazardous Wastes: Proceedings of the 18th Mid-Atlantic Industrial Waste Conference, by G.D. Boardman (Ed.), Technomic, Lancaster, PA, 1986, ISBN 87762-479-8, xviii + 640 pages, softcover, \$55.00.

The book is a compilation of papers presented at the above-noted conference. Forty-eight papers were presented in the following eleven sessions:

- Leaking Underground Storage Tanks
- Biological treatment
- Toxic and Hazardous Materials
- Solidification/Stabilization
- Industrial Residues
- Pretreatment and Resource Recovery
- Land Application and Sludge Management
- Groundwater and Contaminant Transfer
- Public Relations and Analytical Methods
- Toxic and Hazardous Materials
- Physicochemical Treatment
- Miscellaneous Papers

GARY F. BENNETT

Remedial Action Technology for Waste Disposal Sites, by K. Wagner, K. Boyer, R. Claff, M. Evans, S. Henry, V. Hodge, S. Mahmud, D. Sarno and P. Scopinno, Noyes Data Corporation, Park Ridge, NJ, 2nd edn., 1986, ISBN 0-8155-1100-0, 642 pages, \$54.00.

The second edition of this useful book is much revised, much expanded and much needed as engineers in the United States face the significant task of remedial action at more than 1000 uncontrolled (Superfund) hazardous waste sites. This book discusses remedial action technologies designed to control, contain, treat or remove contaminants at hazardous waste disposal sites.

The best part of the book is found in its extensive collection of cost data. Clearly remedial action alternatives have to consider costs and the comparison thereof. In this context the book will be (as was the previous edition) a first-rate resource.

Conversely, the most unneeded part of the book was a discussion and photographs of known technology (equipment). I cannot believe that an engineer working in the field needs photographs of bulldozers, tractors centrifuges and clarifiers.

Major chapters include the remedial action selection process, surface water