

years. Discussed in sufficient detail are procedures for degradation/decomposition of 44 of the most commonly used substances or classes from acid halides and aldehydes to 6-thioguanine, many of which are rated as hazardous or carcinogenic. The indexing is especially complete, including molecular formula index, CAS Registry Number Index, and Name Index. Extensive references are given for each compound or type discussed.

This reviewer suggests this volume will be a "handbook" for both academic and industrial laboratories, and for that reason highly recommends it. It is to be hoped that it will be expanded to include even more substances which today are creating such concern.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

*Critical Aspects of Safety and Loss Prevention*, by T.A. Kletz, Butterworth London, 1990, ISBN 0-408-04429-2, 349 pp., £60.00.

The author might better have entitled this book "Key Words of Safety and Loss Prevention", because it describes his thoughts and observations of some 400 different key words. Some of the words are names of equipment items (valves, tanks, etc.), some are names of places where accidents have occurred (Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, etc.), some are names of substances (Chlorine, lead, etc.), but most are commonly used terms that are encountered in the industry, such as; foresight, ignition, reliability, toxicity, and many others.

It is easy reading and can be enjoyed by anyone. In some ways, it is almost like reading snap shot histories of these "key words". The author himself has difficulty describing the scope of the book, instead he chooses to mention what it is not, namely; not a comprehensive treatment of the subject, nor an encyclopedia, nor a dictionary, nor a guide to the law. However, in reality the volume is probably closer to an encyclopedia of terms that come to mind for the author, based on his many years as a professional safety expert.

The author has listed a number of references with some of the key words and quite often cross-indexed to other key words. Quite often, he has added advisory comments, such as under Forecasts he concludes with, "Crystal gazing is not an exact science. We should be humble about our forecasts and willing to admit that they may be widely out. See extrapolation, false alarms and foresight". It is interesting to read and most useful for the newcomer to the field.

LESLIE E. LAHTI

*Rapid Guide to Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace*, by R.J. Lewis, Jr., Van