

ers, and the use of a Higeer rotating packed bed to replace conventional distillation columns (thereby minimizing large material inventories).

The book is a valuable addition to the design engineer's "tools of the trade". It will provide the design teacher with a number of discussion topics for class, as well as provide a good list of references for additional reading.

LESLIE E. LAHTI

Improving Chemical Engineering Practices, 2nd edn., by Trevor Kletz, Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, New York, NY, 1990, ISBN 0-89116-929-6, 153 pp.

The author has collected 60 myths or half-truths about the chemical process industries into this little book and, based on his extensive experience, he has explained the shortcomings or errors in accepting such statements. As the author explains, there are usually some elements of truth in the statements (or myths) and quite often they were more true at some time in the past than they are now. The real message that he offers to the reader, is to always doubt a blanket statement as "THE TRUTH" and to take a sceptical approach to the particular issue or statement.

It would be impractical to repeat all of the myths in this review, but hopefully the following will give some of the flavor: "Accidents are due to human failing, so we should eliminate the human element when we can"; "A pressure of 10 pounds is small and will not cause injury"; "Plants are made safer by adding protective equipment" and "Policies lead to actions". The author, in addition to suggesting why the statements might be erroneous, gives contrary examples based on his experience.

The book is interesting reading. Undoubtedly, some of the myths will enrich chemical engineering classes because they will provide good discussion material for the students. As a result it will serve as a good resource for teachers of design or process safety.

LESLIE E. LAHTI

Managing Safety and Health Programs, by Roy Boylston, Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, NY, 1990, ISBN -0-442-31900-2, 264 pp., \$29.00.

In the first sentence of this volume, the author states: "Managing safety and health programs is one of management's most important responsibilities". While doubtlessly true, this reviewer's half-century of experience in the real world gives us pause, and makes the objective of this volume, namely manage-

ment and control of safety and health activities, of considerable interest. In some industries, doubtlessly these responsibilities are taken seriously; in others, safety and health, in spite of the laws and regulations, are looked upon with considerable contempt, if at all. Production is usually the most important consideration in any industry.

The above is not intended to detract from this volume. Doubtlessly it contains much that will be of help and "how to" in any safety program. However, the emphasis which the author places on a Central Safety and Health Committee as the guiding light which illuminates the darkness for management has not coincided with the "real world" this reviewer has seen.

There can be little question that, to be effective, line managers must be responsible and accountable for both their line assignment and their committee assignment if a committee exists. The degree of interest and day-by-day time and effort the manager puts into health and safety may be high in some places if the top manager really is serious, and recognizes the economic as well as legal requirements that the laws since 1970 continue to dictate.

Laws have never saved the world from anything; to rely on the legal requirements of OSHA, EPA, NIOSH, Clean Air, Superfund, and other regulations is to hope for the right combinations of personal dedication, responsibility, and belief that management really will give permission, finances, time, and enthusiasm to carry out the required task. The slogan "Safety First" was never really intended to be followed without question, and is not done so even today as we observe the passing scene.

This volume has much to recommend it, however, since many of the 11 chapters and two appendix items are useful. Forms and procedures are included for the several activities groups, such as rules and procedures, education and training, inspections and audits, health and environment, fire and emergency, housekeeping, accident investigation, and staff safety and health responsibilities. When properly used, each would be useful; and this reviewer recommends the volume for its overall scope and content.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

Health, Safety and Environmental Control, by R.L. Hancock, K.L. Hylton, O. Bruce Dickerson MD, and G. Harris, Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, NY, 1990, ISBN 0-442-20589-9, 396 pp., \$45.00.

This volume begins with a detailed overview of the history and development of occupational health and safety (even before OSHA and EPA) up to the present status. It emphasizes the need for more cooperation among distinct but related scientific disciplines, not overlooking the importance of lawyers in