

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

recent times. It notes that human factors are still the greatest factors in accidents, and that much remains to bring to risk analyses the human approach and adequate resources and interest by senior management. Even today some circles still do not recognize the potentially adverse effect on the financial and public image (“right-to-know”) of a company that the newer ethical, as well as legal, standards have brought into play and actually applied at all levels.

The volume covers a wide-range of accident/injury studies, from falls, being caught between, and cuts and bruises. Chemical hazards and industrial hygiene monitoring for control of the air and workplace chemicals, as well as disposal of hazardous wastes, depending on the operations, may need to be amplified somewhat, for even today many chemically-oriented laboratories, chemical producers and petrochemical operations have serious safety and health problems.

Although five editors/authors are listed on the title, not one author is credited as the particular writer of any of the nine chapters. In addition, numerous references to the excellent safety record of combustion engineering dilute the feeling that the data reflects the “real-world”. Moreover several references to publications and literature need to be updated. As an example, *CHAS Notes*, which has been published bi-monthly by the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Health and Safety with authoritative information, would be a desirable addition. Furthermore, while chemicals of wide concern to the public are recognized, including PCBs and asbestos, no mention is made of the highly questionable gas, radon, which is billed by the EPA as a serious hazard in homes and other secured locations.

The notations to the many laws and regulations which have highlighted many lists and substances, are well covered.

In general, the book is very well done and should be of considerable use as a good quality reference.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT