

major focus of the book. Most useful of all, I felt, was the last chapter containing cost data.

G.F. BENNETT

Water Distribution Systems: A Troubleshooting Manual, by J.W. Male and T.M. Walski, Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1990, ISBN 0-87371-232-3, 107 pp., \$ 55.00.

This book is intended to assist water utility personnel, who may not have a great deal of formal education in hydraulics, in making decisions regarding the repair, rehabilitation or replacement of components of their water distribution system. Topics covered in this book encompass a broad range, such as discussions of the water distribution system including pipes, valves, hydrants, pumps and storage tanks.

G.F. BENNETT

The Dose Makes the Poison—A Plain Language Guide to Toxicology, 2nd edn., by M. Alice Ottoboni, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991, 115 5th Ave., New York, NY 10003, or 7625 Empire Drive, Florence, KY 41042, ISBN 0-442-00666-8, 244 pages, \$24.95.

The subject of poison and toxicity has gained wide attention, especially during the past three decades as the requirements and understanding of regulatory action continue to deepen. Dr. Ottoboni is a highly skilled and experienced toxicologist with the California Health Authority and has attempted, with much success, to bring toxicity into focus, in order to dispel much of the fear and concern which has developed. As in her first edition, she notes the public is gravely concerned about environmental chemicals. This book is dedicated to the goal that knowledge of what makes chemicals harmful if misused or misapplied can be applied to the benefit of all.

The book is carefully organized, beginning with a discussion of synthetic vs. natural chemicals, explains in much detail how many chemicals can cause harm if not properly used, discusses carcinogenicity, teratology, and mutagenicity, fires and explosions, and human effects including sensible discussions of PCBs, dioxins, DDT, indoor air pollutants, and formaldehyde. The final chapter is on the public distrust of science, with a plea for more effective communication at all levels. Four appendices and an excellent subject index conclude the work. This reviewer suggests this volume as well-organized, authoritative, and a major contribution to understanding chemicals, and recommends it highly.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT