

*Introduction to Occupational Epidemiology*, by S. Hernberg, Lewis Publishers, Chelsea, MI, 1991, ISBN 0-87371-636-1, 223 pp., \$59.95.

This introductory book by an occupational physician who is the director of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, provides a good background of the subject, definitions of terms, and a discussion on the place of epidemiology in science. There are numerous examples of how various aspects of epidemiological studies are conducted. Exposure–effect and exposure–response relationships are covered briefly, while exposure data and measures of exposure, collection of data, and proxies for exposure data and job-exposure matrices are mentioned in another chapter. Other chapters discuss such topics as validity, precision, biases, specific problems, how to plan a study, and guidelines for interpreting epidemiologic studies.

For a chemist concerned with exposure, the book would have been more useful if exposure effects, dose–response relationships and exposure data for specific compounds, such as carcinogens, had been discussed in one chapter rather than spread over several chapters. The design of the book is somewhat unusual for key phrases are highlighted or set apart from the text. For some, this may be disturbing; for others, it may be useful. None the less, for those needing fundamental information about epidemiologic terms and procedures, this would be a useful book.

ELIZABETH K. WEISBURGER

*Chemical Safety Data Sheets: Vol. 4b Toxic Chemicals*, Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, UK, 1991, ISBN 0-85186-321-3, 350 pp., £49.95.

This book contains hazard data on 78 toxic substances, from which an informal assessment of the hazard can be made and the necessary control measures devised. Using this book, the hazardous properties of the referred to substances can be identified and quantified.

The book covers (as noted in the title) chemicals whose names begin with the letters M to Z. It starts with magnesium phosphate and ends with zinc phosphate. This volume is just one of a series of books being put out by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

For each chemical the data given include:

- Identifiers–synonym, CAS No., UN No.
- Threshold limit values – from several countries
- Physical properties
- Packaging and transportation–instruction, storage