

Many (14) of the papers presented at the conference were not published in the proceedings, the editors noting they were unavailable at press time. Although the title and authors of each nonappearing paper was given, sufficient data were not given to allow an interested reader to request a copy from the author. Perhaps the editors could give these data next time.

GARY F. BENNETT

Ethel Browning's Toxicity and Metabolism of Industrial Solvents, 2nd edn., Vol. 3. Alcohols and Esters, edited by R.G. Thurman and F.C. Kaufmann, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 1992, ISBN 0-444-81317-9, xxxviii + 394 pp., \$228.50/Dfl. 400.00.

The initial edition of Ethel Browning's Handbook of *Toxicity and Metabolism of Industrial Solvents* was published in 1965. In that pioneering work, Browning discussed both the properties, toxicology, and metabolism mechanisms of toxicity of solvents. This new edition extends that work by emphasizing mechanism of toxicity in an attempt to understand the toxic effects produced by chemicals — but this time the data are published in four volumes (not just one), each volume being devoted to a different group of compounds.

In this (the third volume of the series), the authors have integrated the data, interpreted the results of numerous studies and have provided detailed lists of references to assist use of the original literature.

As noted above, both alcohol and esters are discussed in Volume 3. In the former category, 24 different alcohols (e.g. methanol, ethanol, butanol, etc.) are discussed; in the latter category, 22 different esters (e.g. ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, propyl acetate) are discussed.

Separate chapters (46 in all) are devoted to each chemical or chemical groups. And each chapter follows a standard format with information grouped under the following headings:

- Physical properties
- Economy, sources and use: production, and industrial uses.
- Biochemistry: estimation, and metabolism.
- Toxicology: animal, human, and carcinogenicity and mutagenicity.
- References

As with any multi-authored text, the emphasis given to any one of the above categories is quite varied. As a chemical engineer, I was more interested in the production and industrial use sub-chapters — although I realize they are not the prime focus of the text. The various chemicals, the amount of space devoted to this topic ranged from a few lines to more than a page.

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