anyone who is concerned with human effects in chemical health and safety. Many environment-related diseases either manifest themselves as common medical problems, or have non-specific symptoms. Hence, an exposure history of the individual is very important. The primary care clinician can play an important role in detecting, treating, and preventing diseases due to toxic exposures by obtaining a thorough exposure history.

As in previous issues in this series, a case study is presented in which a 52-year-old man with previously diagnosed coronary artery disease controlled by nitroglycerine describes episodes of recurring headache for the past three weeks. Mild nausea often accompanies the headache: there is no vomiting, but a dull frontal ache not relieved by aspirin. To further illustrate the diagnostic effort, the booklet presents three scenarios: (1) an accountant who has had the same job and residence for many years; (2) the owner of a commercial cleaning service who uses cleaning products at various industrial sites; and (3) a retired advertising copywriter who lives in the vicinity of an abandoned industrial complex. Most people with illness caused or exacerbated by exposure to hazardous substances obtain their medical care from clinicians who are not specialists in either environmental or occupational medicine. For example, in a study of a primary care practice in an academic setting, only 24% of 625 charts had any mention of the patient's occupation, and only 2% had information on exposures, duration of present employment, and past occupations. This could be of great significance now that many persons are changing jobs.

Organ systems often affected by toxic exposure are neatly itemized, while toxicants in the home environment are noted, including indoor air pollution, tobacco smoke, wooden stoves, gas ranges, building materials, asbestos, and radon, by common household products (under-the-sink), pesticides, and lawn care products, lead products and waste, by recreational hazards, water supply, soil contamination and others. By utilizing the exposure history form, the components of an exposure history can be developed. Each of the three scenarios mentioned previously were studied, with exposures going back 30 years as highly significant. Further assistance on taking patient history and its significance can be obtained from the ATSDR, Division of Health Education, Office of the Director, at (+1−404) 639 6204, together with the numerous references given in the booklet. This is a very practical and useful guide to occupational as well as environmental exposures in the world.

HOWARD H. FAWCETT

Current Environmental Engineering Summaries — 1993 edition, Engineering Information, Inc., Government Institutes, Inc., Rockwell, MD, USA, ISBN 0-86587-346-1, 1993, 1110 pp., US$ 89

According to its compiler, this book: "is an organized compilation of bibliographic citations and abstracts covering the world's technologic literature on environmental engineering. The literature covered is found in published journals, technical reports, conference proceedings and other material. Two types of conference records are

provided: (1) abstracts of industrial conference papers, and (2) abstracts when summary the overall proceedings volume".

There are over 6000 abstracts approaching 100–150 words in length found under topical headings. This section (the major fraction of the book) is followed by a listing of all authors, listed alphabetically with a citation number for each entry allowing one to find the abstract. The final section of the book (400 pp.) is a subject index arranged under the descriptor which best represents the main subject area of the original article. The full text of cited articles can be obtained from Engineering Information, Inc.

I could not find a statement of the time period covered by the abstracts, but it appears the abstracts are from the period covering 1989–1992.

While I found the book interesting (even to the point of reading an abstract of one of my own papers) I wonder about its utility when compared to on-line computer data bases. One major feature I do like is the compiler's ability to supply (at a price) reprints of conference papers which are often very difficult to secure.

GARY F. BENNETT

EPA Engineering Bulletins: Current Treatment and Site Remediation Technologies, US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, Government Institutes, Inc., Rockwell, MD, USA, ISBN 0-86587-347-X, 1993, 172 pp., US$ 55

This book is a compilation of Engineering Bulletins originally issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development. Each bulletin (approximately 8 pp.) presents a review of engineering methods related to resource recovery, treatment technology and remediation. A list of relevant references is included.

Topics of the 21 bulletins are as follows:

- solvent extraction
- mobile transportation/incineration
- chemical dehalogenation
- soil washing
- slurry biodegradation
- steam extraction
- soil vapor extraction
- thermal desorption
- soil flushing
- air stripping/aqueous solution
- remediation air emission control
- activated carbon treatment
- chemical oxidation
- supercritical water oxidation
- remediation of lead battery sites
- rotary biological contactor
- slurry walls