

Process Engineering for Pollution Control and Waste Minimization, D.L. Wise and D.J. Trantolo, eds., Marcel Dekker, New York, NY, 1994, \$195, 730 pp., ISBN: 0-8247-9161-4

The editors have compiled a very impressive (and lengthy) text of 36 chapters written by more than 50 contributors. The editors' goal was "... to provide an up-to-date source of technical information relating to current and potential pollution control and waste minimization practice".

The text is divided into five major sections:

- Engineering Issues in Pollution Control and Waste Minimization
- Methodologies of Waste Control
- Wastewater Treatment
- Modeling for Pollution Control
- Industry-Specific Pollution Control.

I read several of the chapters. Individually, each was very good, but their wide-ranging topics lack focus. The book is more like a periodical, with a collection of papers (admittedly up-to-date) on diverse topics. If I were doing research or assigning students a research topic such as "freeze concentration in wastewater treatment" or "organoclay sorbents for removal of organics", I would have them read the appropriate chapter in the book. But I would never have them purchase the book as a text. Its use, I feel, will be as a library reference text – unfortunately, this information would not be readily available (even in an electronic data base) and would only be accessible if a would-be user pursues the book's index. Until then, he/she probably would not know it contains a chapter entitled "Photocatalytic Degradation of Hazardous Wastes".

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Arsenic in the Environment – Part I: Cycling and Characterization, J.O. Nraigu, ed., Wiley, New York, NY, 1994, \$95.00, 430 pp., ISBN: 0-471-30436-0

Arsenic probably has the worst public relations history of any element and its name has become almost synonymous with the word poison. Yet it is ubiquitous in nature; it is found in poultry and seafood and drugs (e.g. Fowler's solution which is 1% arsenic trioxide).

This first volume (Part I) in the series (of two) focuses on arsenic's history, chemical composition, characteristics, behavior in the environment and the analytical techniques used to measure it. There are 17 separate chapters dealing with arsenic. Some of the topics discussed are:

- history
- distribution in soils
- bioavailability
- removal from drinking water
- biotransformation