

The original edition had six chapters divided into three major sections:

I. Defining Chemical Sensitivity

- Chemical Exposures and Sensitive Populations
- Key terms and Concepts
- Origins of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Effects on Health

II. Mechanisms, Diagnosis, and Treatment

- Mechanisms of multiple Chemical Sensitivities
- Diagnosis and Treatment

III. Responding to the Problem

- Needs, Concerns, and Recommendations

Perhaps the most interesting chapter (for me) was the third that dealt with offending substances including: outdoor air pollutants; indoor air pollutants, domestic and work-place; foods, food additives, and contaminants; water contaminants and additives; and drugs and consumer products.

In conducting their role as editors of a second edition, the authors took a different approach than most. They state, “We deliberately chose to add updated material to, rather than rewrite, the original edition of *Chemical Exposures*, both because we believe that our earlier observations remain accurate and because the earlier material provides a useful “time capsule“ against which to evaluate progress in understanding the condition(s) known as chemical sensitivity. Since the first edition, two new patient exposure groups have emerged with features strikingly similar to those of chemically sensitive persons: sick veterans from the Persian Gulf War and women who trace a myriad of adverse health symptoms to silicone breast implants. Both fit what we and others believe to be a two-step model of chemical sensitivity: an identifiable initiating chemical exposure event, followed after a short period by a myriad of symptoms triggered by low-level exposure to a large number of chemically unrelated substances.”

The book is clearly a ‘medically-oriented’ text, but one I found extremely readable and very interesting. I spent many hours reading it. It is well-written, understandable and very well referenced (over 700 references).

Prior to reading the text, I was one of the many who did not believe in the health (human) impact of very small concentrations of chemicals. Not so after reading this text. The authors make, I believe, a compelling case (not yet accepted by the majority of the medical community) for MCS [multiple chemical sensitivity] and for the important role indoor air pollution plays in that effect.

GARY F. BENNETT

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The Sea: Volume 10—The Global Coastal Ocean: Processes and Methods, Kenneth H. Brink and Allan R. Robinson, John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, \$145.00, 1998, 604 pp. ISBN: 0-471-11544-4

With one exception, the papers printed in this volume are beyond the interests of the usual reader of this Journal. The single exception was a paper by Roland Wollast of the

University of Brussels entitled, 'Evaluation and Comparison of the Global Carbon Cycle.'

The author begins with:

“Our knowledge of the carbon cycle on a global scale has improved greatly in the past decades. However, the role of the coastal zone in sequestering organic and inorganic carbon, as well as the importance of continental margins in the exchange of carbon with the open ocean, remain controversial. There are contrasting differences in the physical, chemical and biological properties between the coastal zone and the open ocean, leading to marked gradients that influence strongly the exchanges between the two systems. The fluxes at the ocean margins, linked to these horizontal gradients, may play a significant role in the elemental biogeochemical cycles in the oceans at a local or global scale. Our knowledge is, however, presently insufficient for an understanding of the past, present and future behavior of these cycles.”

He ends with:

“Considering the future evolution of the carbon cycle in relation with climatic change, it is obvious that the increase in temperature of the surface layer of the ocean will lead to stronger stratification of the water column. This, in turn, will restrain vertical mixing and thus the transfer of nutrients from deep water to the coastal zone. Thus global warming may decrease the productivity of the coastal zone and constitute a positive feedback for the accumulation of CO₂ in the atmosphere.”

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Air Quality Management, R.E. Hester and R.M. Harrison, (eds.), The Royal Society of Chemistry, Letchworth, UK, 1997, 160 pp. ISBN: 0-85404-235-0

Published as part of their 'Issues in Environmental Science and Technology' series, (Vol. No. 8), the Royal Society of Chemistry has solicited ten experts who authored the following seven chapters:

1. Improving Air Quality in the United Kingdom
2. Emission Inventories
3. Ambient Air Quality Monitoring
4. The European Auto-oil Programme: Scientific Considerations
5. Receptor Modeling for Air Quality Management
6. The Critical Load Approach to Air Pollution Control
7. California's Approach to Air Quality Management

The problem facing environmentalists in control of air pollution was outlined as follows: “The easily won gains in air quality have already been made throughout the