VEST-I continues professional placement service

Unemployed scientists, engineers and technicians are urged to contact VEST-I, a volunteer self-help professional placement service affiliated with the Illinois State Employment Service, located in the Professional Career and Information Center, 208 South LaSalle Street, Chicago; telephone (312) 793-4807,8,9.

Since its inception in October 1971, more than 500 unemployed professionals have participated in VEST-I activities. Twenty five per cent of these individuals have returned to employment, incurring no service fees to either themselves or to their new employers. During this same period, VEST-I has processed approximately one thousand job orders from participating employers.

As VEST-I enters its second year, its services to its volunteer members have been expanded. The VEST-I candidate first attends an employment workshop where he receives counseling designed to prepare him for the difficult task ahead. He is advised of the current employment situation and provided with the knowledge and techniques necessary for an effective reemployment campaign. He then joins the common efforts of his colleagues, remaining active and in constant contact with his profession. He is given the opportunity to develop a broad overview of current activities in the scientific and technical communities by serving in a wide variety of capacities.

Concurrently, VEST-I's 27 offices, the National Registry and, locally, the Professional Career and Information Center makes available the services of the Illinois State Job Bank, appropriate reference material, and access to state, federal and municipal employment opportunities not readily available elsewhere. In many cases, VEST-I cooperates with the employment services offered by his professional society. ■

• New Books. . .

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tion. It is debatable whether copper, manganese, soluble and particulate iron, and molybdenum can be considered micronutrients. These elements are more often referred to as essential trace requirements and could have been treated in a more comprehensive section dealing with trace element analysis in seawater. If they are to remain in their present location, perhaps boron should be added as a micronutrient rather than be considered under "Analysis of Polluted Waters." No mention is made in the section on micronutrients of the use of the Japanese CSK Standards, which have now been in existence and used quite extensively for ca. 3-4 years. Although the Grasshoff method for silicon assay has been used, the method presented is not up to date and, in addition, has received criticism in the literature.

Little space is devoted to the application of automatic analysis, particularly as far as nutrients are concerned, and since this is a significant development such an omission is hardly excusable. It is probably also worth mentioning that the book gives little attention to data processing and the significant developments in the use of computers in marine chemistry. Computers are finding considerable application, not only in data processing, but also in the automation of analytical methods at sea. Other significant omissions include the application of gas chromatographic techniques, mass spectrometry and the measurement of radioactivity in the oceans. Furthermore the subject of the organic chemistry of the oceans has received rather sketchy treatment, and as far as pollution is concerned some of the major organic pollutants, which are now receiving the attention of marine chemists, have been largely overlooked. Although atomic absorption spectroscopy receives some attention, it is also noticed that the determination of trace metals, such as lead, zinc, nickel and cobalt, are omitted.

It is difficult to see what readers of this journal would find of value in this publication. It would be of interest to note the breadth of the analytical requirements that marine chemists have to face nowadays. On the other hand, it would be apparent that a great deal of sophistication is missing from the approaches being described herein. Certainly the techniques being employed by marine chemists today are much more sophisticated than the majority of those presented.

As a final comment, it is particularly distressing to note the phrase that marine waters will increasingly become the final repository of wastes. This fatalistic comment, made with little qualification, is all the more distressing when one realizes the tremendous attention now being given to ways and means of preserving and enhancing the marine environment rather than using it as a garbage dump.

A. WALTON ■