B. Six books comprise Volume II, dealing with the toxicology of specific chemicals. The two books which make up Volume III focus on various aspects of the theory and rationale underlying industrial hygiene practice.

G DIGGLE


Recognition of hazards is an essential part of occupational health practice. Occupational hygienists refer to recognition, evaluation, and control of hazards as key elements in their discipline. Occupational physicians and nurses use their clinical skills to evaluate fitness for work and make recommendations on prevention of ill health from workplace hazards. In these and other areas of occupational health, an understanding of workplace processes and materials used is essential for a proper evaluation of the possible risks to health. This book is therefore a useful resource in that it provides information on some common and interesting industrial processes. There are several sections on the use of metals—from the production of metals and metal product fabrication to metal finishing. There are chapters on the electronics industry, chemical processes, paint manufacture, plastics, textiles, and more.

The book is well illustrated with flow diagrams, diagrams showing sections of degreasing tanks, furnaces, reactors, and other machinery, and plenty of photographs including a molding line, machining tools, welding, and the use of diamond saws. The photographs are good examples of the type used in the slide exam for the associateship of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (AFOM). This should be sufficient reason for AFOM candidates to consider obtaining the book. Some of the flow diagrams are just a little too complicated—for example, the petroleum refinery, the sulphuric acid plant, and lead smelting. However, these processes are by nature complicated, and oversimplification of the flow diagrams will not necessarily help the understanding of such processes.

The author also provides lists of chemicals encountered in various industrial activities. For rubber products alone, there are several tables showing the range of chemicals used as vulcanising agents, accelerators, and antioxidants. In the section dealing in the microelectronics industry, there is a list of different solutions used for etching a variety of materials. Obviously the health and safety practitioner performing risk assessments will need further information about the properties, toxicology, and epidemiology of these chemicals, and the extent of the worker exposure. The book has considered this by providing some information on the health effects. There are also exposure profiles indicating typical exposures in various industrial activities. Examples are results of personal sampling for dust and fume in copper smelting, concentrations of particulates in forging, and exposure to fumes and gases in welding.

Those who want to know more about processes as varied as arc welding, production of steel, and non-destructive testing of metals can refer to this book. Those with limited opportunities to visit places such as coal mines can read about what goes on in a coal mine and what hazards exist. And those who enjoy looking up exotic sounding terms such as carbon nitriding, gas carburnising, annealing, scarifying, quenching, green sand molding, and hot box system will find them all included.

This is a gem of a book, very useful as a reference or for the enthusiastic keen on understanding industrial processes. A must for all occupational health and safety practitioners.

T C AW


It is not often one can review the 1996 edition of a book in 1995! This Handbook is a directory of useful addresses and contact points for products and services across the full range of health and safety work. Introductory essays on topics of current concern are provided.

A useful source book which should be available to all who work in the Health and Safety area.

R L MAYNARD