

be faced with formidable hazards on every side. The authors of *Chemistry of Nuclear Power* are plain spoken about the dangers of nuclear radiations, but they are also clear about how to avoid them. This gives the present reviewers renewed confidence that mankind can now go boldly forward, again unafraid and unashamed of life and love and happiness.

Don M. Yost

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About the Reviewers: Don M. Yost, Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology, writes of his co-author in this review, "Mr. Gomez is a capitalist who is closely familiar with and highly skilled in technical matters, especially those involving metals and internal combustion engines. He was born in Montana of a British mother and Swedish father, but he has lived in Idaho since he was a small fry." He also acknowledges help from Mrs. Margaret Sullivan Guthrie, who he claims, (more believably), is Irish.

The Atomic Energy Deskbook. By John F. Hogerton. Reinhold Publishing Corporation. 673 pp. \$11.00.

For a work covering such a broad range of subject matter, *The Atomic Energy Deskbook* does a remarkably good job of distilling out the significant essence of the many topics discussed. This reviewer must confess to a certain amount of preconceived skepticism that the *Deskbook* would be likely to be of much interest to anyone except the novice or industrial executive trying to get oriented in the field. A quick scan of the "A" column at the beginning of the table of contents did little to alleviate this feeling, since Access Permits, Accountability, Agreements for Cooperation, etc. are not very inspiring subjects to most of us.

However, the more one delves into the actual material in the book, the more evident it becomes that John Hogerton and his associates have succeeded to a high degree in meeting the stated objectives of the Atomic Energy Commission in sponsoring the preparation and publication of the material, and that the book will be found both interesting and useful to the specialist in atomic energy as well as the layman and industrial executive. Everyone doing serious work in any phase of atomic energy feels the need for a source of concise authoritative information on the very many subjects in areas lying outside his immediate

knowledge. *The Atomic Energy Deskbook* supplies this need better than any other single volume known to the reviewer.

It is possible to find some flaws in the information given at various places in the book, although they are few in number and are far overshadowed by the excellent discussions given on practically every topic covered. Some flaws noted in spot reading by the reviewer: the Turkish Nuclear Research Center built around that country's first reactor is located at Istanbul rather than Ankara; in the discussion of fission product isotopes and their applications, no mention is made of the major role played by Hanford in large scale recovery operations on several of these isotopes; the prime example of the use of dispersion-type fuel elements (the Peach Bottom Reactor) seems to have been overlooked in the discussion of this fuel type; and Chadwick did more than "postulate the existence" of the neutron in 1932, - his experiments played a predominate role in its discovery.

The two longest discussions in the book are those on Nuclear Power Development (9 pages) and Nuclear Power Economics (24 pages). The latter is so extensive and thorough as to constitute almost a classic treatment of the subject, if such a term can be applied to such an elusive thing as nuclear fuel economics. Despite the primary dedication of the book to the industrial segment, the length of treatment accorded the latter subject seems to the reviewer to be somewhat out of proportion to the relatively brief treatment necessarily given to many other important topics.

The organization of the subject matter in *The Atomic Energy Deskbook* is such as to make it easy to find whatever one is looking for by following the alphabetical sequence and simple suggestions given in the author's preface. The format, photographs, type size, printing and paper quality are all excellent. Here is a book that should be on the desk of everyone, technical or non-technical, who feels a need to have a good source of information in brief form on all phases of atomic energy.

Richard L. Doan

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About the Reviewer: Richard L. Doan hardly needs an introduction to this readership. He was the first director of the Metallurgical Laboratory at Chicago (now Argonne National Laboratory) and the first research director of Clinton Laboratory (now Oak Ridge National Laboratory) and for the past twelve years, until August 31, 1963, manager of the Atomic Energy Division of Phillips Petroleum Company. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Nuclear Society from 1955 to 1959.