Correspondence to: Dr E R Waclawski
Edited by: D E GARDNER, J D CRAPO, RO
Toxicology of the lung: 3rd edition
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sharing of a wide variety of toxicological
from around the world to participate in the
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Clinical Toxicology will be held in Montreal,
North American Congress of Clinical
Toxicology Conference, 4–9 October
The 2001 North American Congress of
Clinical Toxicology will be held in Montreal,
Canada, 4–9 October, 2001. This annual
congress allows an opportunity for physi-
cians, pharmacists, nurses, and scientists
from around the world to participate in the
sharing of a wide variety of toxicological
issues. As well as platform and poster
sessions, the program will offer a number of
symposia, and other traditional and novel
special sessions. Obtain the program details
at www.clnitox.org or contact Contemporary
Forums Conference Management, 11900
Silvergate Drive, Dublin, CA 94568, USA.
Phone 001 925 8287100 Extention 0.

North American Congress of Clinical
Toxicology Conference, 4–9 October

Correspondence, Notice, Book reviews

without exposure to glutaraldehyde would
have been of help in interpreting the results
obtained.

E R WACLAWSKI

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A dictionary of epidemiology
1 A Vyas, C A C Pickering, I A Oldham, et al.
Survey of symptoms, respiratory function, and
immunology and their relation to glutaralde-
yde and other occupational exposures among
endoscopy nursing staff. Occup Environ Med
2 Last JM. A dictionary of epidemiology. Oxford:

Principles of toxicology: environmental
and industrial applications, 2nd edition.
Edited by: P L WILLIAMS, R C JAMES, SM
ROBERTS. (Pp xvii + 1-603; £). 2000. New
York: John Wiley. ISBN: 0 471 29321 0.

The declared intention of the book is to
present “ . . . compactly and efficiently the
scientific basis to [sic] toxicology as it applies
to the workplace and the environment”,
and it succeeds at a practical level.
The editors and authors all come from the
eastern half of the United States, which gives
a particular cast to the topics covered, and
particularly to the sources cited and the
approach to the evaluation of data. They have
still served the reader well by the breadth of
the coverage and the clarity of the presenta-
tion.
The three main sections cover: the
principles of toxicology; areas of concern
including reproduction, carcinogenicity, the
effect of metals, pesticides, solvents and
natural toxins; and applications including
risk assessment, occupational and environ-
mental health, epidemiology, and the control
of hazards in the work place. Each topic is
followed by a concise summary and a short,
reasonably up to date list of references and
suggested reading (not distinguished).
There are some graphs, diagrams, and occa-
sional illustrative sketches and grainy photo-
graphs.
The strong points of the book are its
breadth in its chosen areas (although work-
place related matters get more attention than
environmental issues—for example, lead gets
almost four times the space of dioxins) and
clarity. Its weaknesses are the parochialism
and the simplicity imposed by the coverage of
many topics. Information and its evaluation
are presented more as “givens” than as
opportunities for arguments to illustrate
principles and their modification in practice.
Although the book seems to be directed
towards practical users of toxicological deci-
sions it does not cover the sources of
information, nor does it offer a guide even to
the multifarious United States agencies
involved; federal activities seem less impor-
tant than state or local actions. Other
countries and even international bodies with
which the United States may cooperate are
omitted.

None of the less, this would be a useful book
to have as a quick source of information and
as a guide to some of the principles underly-
ing the successful application of toxicology
some of the time and in some circumstances.
In a contrary way, it would be an ideal base
for high level students to identify deficiencies
in its very pragmatic approach to toxicology
and to learn by remedying them with knowl-
dge from elsewhere.

R L MAYNARD

BOOK REVIEWS

Toxicology of the lung: 3rd edition.
Edited by: D E GARDNER, J D CRAPO, RO
MCCLELLAN. (Pp 416; £110.00) 1999. USA: Taylor and Francis Books. ISBN: 1 56032
801 0.

This is the 3rd edition of what has become a
standard work in the fields of inhalation
toxicity and air pollution science. The
editors have, again, put together a series of
chapters by recognised authorities: some pick
up and develop topics considered in the 2nd,
and even 1st editions; others deal with new
problems. Some potential buyers will be won-
dering why they should pay £110.00 for this
edition when the 2nd (1993) still contains
much of relevance and importance. The
answer is that we are living in a period when
air pollution science is advancing rapidly: much
of what was thought about the effects, or lack of
effects, of air pollutants on health in the early
1990s is no longer believed today. This book
provides an invaluable update.

It is not possible to review all chapters in
detail but a few that seemed particularly
important are: Harkema on the nasal airways
(replacing K T Morgan in the second
edition); cytokines and regulation of pulmo-

ary inflammation by Driscoll; epidemiologi-
cal approaches to investigating outdoor and
indoor air pollution by Samet and Jaakkola;
environmental asthma by Frew and col-
leagues (possibly the first United Kingdom—
although not the first European—
contribution to this series), and
chemical studies of air pollutants by Frampton and
Utell. So a lot of well known names and the
usual competent reviews. There is rather less
anatomical material and lung cell biology in
this edition than in previous ones. To the air
pollution specialist the chapter by Graham
and colleagues from the United States
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a
jewel. They have provided us with an update
on the criteria air pollutants (known in
Europe as the classic air pollutants) in about
35 pages. Brilliant! Almost like a condensed
EPA staff paper and indispensable for work
ers in countries, such as the United King-
dom, where resources are, in comparison
with the United States EPA, limited. The
tabulation of data from epidemiological stud-
ies on the effects of particles makes this chap-
ter especially valuable. The problem of parti-
cles is dealt with in more detail by Roger
McClellan in a long and very detailed chapter
(11). This is in effect an “all you need to
know” chapter and takes us from sources of
particles and deposition in the lung, through
evidence of effects, to standard setting and
needs for research. McClellan expands on
standard setting in a later chapter and this,
too, is good. Despite this I was left with a
feeling that someone of McClellan’s distinc-
tion could have gone further and given us
more of his own views. The United States
regulatory system in both the ambient and
the occupational context is extraordinarily
rigid and legalistic. Need it be like this? Do
ambient air quality standards help? Given
recent epidemiological work do we need ani-
mal to man extrapolation in setting air quality
standards? As the honours papers used to say:
discuss! A book of this type should do more
than present the facts, it should give us the
arguments: in this alone the book is limited.

Well then, worth £110.00! Yes, I think so.
The updating chapters, alone, are worth it. I
hope the editors will soon be thinking about a
4th edition: let us have more arguments—
especially about the usefulness and validity of
current regulatory practices.

R L MAYNARD

www.occenvmed.com