

A BOOK REVIEW

THE USE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF PESTICIDES IN THE ENVIRONMENT. 1979. F. L. McEwen and G. R. Stephenson. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 538 p.

The authors have written an excellent book for introductory environmental toxicology students. The chapters summarizing the use of fungicides and insecticides in North America are quite brief. However, the chapter on herbicide use is more complete since 1 of the authors is a weed scientist. There is quite an extensive chapter on pesticides in water.

The politics of pesticides in the environment are more important than the 4 paragraphs dedicated to that subject in the book. The authors entirely miss the point on pesticide fires and spills in the 2 paragraphs on those subjects. Their pesticide use statistics are often out of date and more recent data are available. They could have expanded the unit on how basic manufacturers get pesticides registered in the U.S. and Canada. They did do an excellent job of defining the difference between toxicity and potential human health hazard which some writers in the area of environmental toxicology fail to do.

The authors state "There is no question that we have placed great pressures on our physical environment and the life forms that give a degree of stability. To introduce pesticides needlessly is folly, folly to which the past three decades bear testimony. Surely we have learned a lesson and it should not be necessary to repeat our mistakes again."

The purpose of the book was to give a brief overview on a very large and controversial subject. The authors have done this. They also furnish ca. 1000 references on 51 pages.—RICHARD L. LIPSEY, Pesticide Coordinator, IFAS, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville 32611.

