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Book Review

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Laymen, academic personnel, and professionals who are concerned about pollution in its broadest parameters will find this book both informative and disturbing. The author does not define pollution except in general terms; rather he wisely provides the means by which the reader can formulate, revise, or broaden his own concept of this inclusive term. He accomplishes this by reviewing pertinent and accessible literature. The use of graphs, charts, and mathematical calculations contributes markedly to an understanding of involved portions of the text. Coverage is good on the different sources of pollution and the effects on living organisms of the pollutants they contribute. Mostly the data concern effects on aquatic animals in both freshwater and marine environments. "Appendix A" and numerous tables in the text that summarize toxicity values of various pollutants have immediate value to those who are involved in pollution studies.

The real value of the book to students and researchers may well lie in the wealth of ideas and research problems it presents. The chapter on "Radioisotopes" provides an insight into this relatively new source of pollutants. The chapter on "Indicator Organisms" is less concrete than most. This illustrates the fact that much work here remains to be accomplished. Dramatic expressions without confirming data, such as "foul beyond description", or "Large portions of Lake Erie comprise an open sewer," as ascribed to various authors, could have been omitted. The Aquatic Biologist will generally find this book to be an important addition to his reference library.

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