Day in 1990, and briefly recounts the origins of these 2 days. The remainder of the chapter discusses several of the successful consumer movements that resulted in changes in pesticide use and laws, including the recent Alar controversy.

Are we scaring ourselves to death? The Media and the Scientist Report on the Environment is the title of Chapter 8. Goldstein presents several viewpoints on the press and its role in alerting the public to environmental problems. Her answer to the question is unclear. Most of the testimony presented is that we are too concerned about risk, but she asks: "Are these unwarranted fears based on superstition and ignorance, or are we simply discovering the depth of very real problems...as life-threatening situations are belatedly uncovered?"

The final chapter (Return to the Future) is a summary of the previous eight chapters. As a conclusion, she offers several "keys to the future," including the use of consumer power to improve food labeling and regulation of pesticides, the expansion of biological controls to replace pesticides, and the encouragement of farmers to refrain from the use of pesticides wherever and whenever possible. Her final statement in the book is one that all can agree with and should remember "In the final analysis, it is not technology that we abhor—but rather misuse of it." Unfortunately, this book contributes to scaring ourselves to death. The public needs to know that pesticides are dangerous and there exist benefits and risks to their use. The risks need to be examined carefully and decisions made. This book does little to help in the decision-making process.—MICHAEL J. SINGER, Dep. Land, Air and Water Resources, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

Atomic Spectroscopy


There has long been, and will continue to be, interest in knowing the trace concentration of elements in liquids and solids of all varieties. The field of atomic spectroscopy plays a major role in this aspect of analytical chemistry.

Atomic Spectroscopy presents a welcome review of the major techniques in the field. The book comprises six chapters and describes five techniques: atomic absorption spectroscopy, atomic fluorescence, flame photometry, emission spectroscopy, and plasma emission spectroscopy. Discussions of the history of atomic spectroscopy generally, and several of the techniques specifically, introductory theory, instrumentation, analytical procedures, and applications are included. Dr. Robinson's review is concise and well-done. Atomic Spectroscopy should be of interest not only to analytical chemistry students and professionals, but also to others in industry, government, and academia who are interested in identifying foreign sources of information, such as the analysis of water or soil samples. The rather extensive list of references provided by some chapter authors and a good index is useful to the reader whose interest is limited to a narrow topic. However, lack of continuity in subject matter and rather abbreviated coverage seem likely to limit the usefulness of this volume.—REGINALD D. NOBLE, Office of Biomedical Sciences, Research, Grant Support, NIH, R424B.