investigations, the depositions, the trial, and concluding
with the outcome; Chapter 8 is addressed to the lawyer,
suggesting ways to use and deal with expert witness; and
Chapter 9 offers concluding remarks, stressing the critical
role of the expert witness.

Although Matson is an engineer, the information pre-
presented and the examples used are such that they will be of
use to professional experts from any field. This book will
thus be of interest to any professional who has been called
upon to serve as an expert witness, whether it is the first
or the 100th litigation they have been involved in.—K. W.
BROWN, Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Texas A&M
University, College Station, TX 77843.

Your Environment, Your Health & You
Donald E. Waite, Vantage Press Inc., 516 West 34th St.,
New York, NY 10001. 1991. 236 p. $15.95. ISBN 0-553-
08834-8.

In this era of increasing environmental awareness, a
seemingly endless series of environmental crises is being
brought to public attention via both electronic and print
media, often by alarmists armed with dubious qualifications
and supported by selected “facts.” In most cases, the pub-
lic is unable to distinguish the expert from the “econut,”
or to translate the scientific jargon into either fact or fiction;
therefore, the selection of an appropriate response by an
individual becomes an exercise in confusion and frustration.
The result is an increasing prevalence of the disease “chem-
ophobia.”

This is definitely not the case for Your Environment,
Your Health & You. Dr. Waite, whose credentials are un-
questioned, is to be commended for a concise yet compre-
prehensive, readable yet technically accurate, balanced treat-
ment of the subject. Even though the format of the book requires
that some content be presented in more than one section,
this is understandable since environmental stressors are not
restricted to a single realm of the environment or to a single
human activity, and the structure does permit easy reference
to any specific topic. The book should aid the family reader
in placing environmental issues into proper perspective, and
in guiding him/her in understanding and appropriately re-
sponding to public health concerns.—C. H. LAWRENCE,
Department of Occupational and Environmental Health,
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma
City, OK 73190.

Soil Management for Sustainability
Edited by R. Lal and F. J. Pierce, Soil and Water
Conservation Society, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny,
IA 50021-9674. 1991. 189 p. $15.00. ISBN 0-935734-23-
6.

The issue of agricultural sustainability has taken center
stage on the agendas of land-grant institutions, government
agencies, and many other groups concerned with agriculture
in both the domestic and international arenas. Soil man-
agement provides a logical focus for the discussion on sus-
tainability. In 1989 the World Association of Soil and Water
Conservation held a workshop in Edmonton, Alberta, on
the theme of “Soil Management for Sustainability.” The
workshop honored Dr. William E. Larson, an eminent soil
scientist who has spent his career advancing the principle
of soil resource management as the foundation of a stable
and productive agriculture. This book consists of 14 chap-
ters, 12 of which were manuscripts presented at the work-
shop, and two additional chapters written by the editors.

Included are several chapters on basic processes that con-
trol soil structure, compaction, and erosion. Two chapters
on soil erosion are particularly thorough and provide an
excellent review of erosion research in the USA over the
past 50 years and clearly set forth the difficulties in pre-
dicting the effect of erosion on agricultural productivity. A
chapter on conservation tillage and planting systems pro-
vides a current and extensive assessment of the trends in
adoption of these systems in the USA. Chapters on man-
agement of wastewater sludge, farming by soil, and natural
resource assessment and policy offer additional information
particularly relevant to U.S. agriculture.

In addition, however, are chapters that present the issue
of sustainability in a more global context. For example, one
chapter compares energy output/input ratios among several
agricultural systems that vary from highly productive and
fossil-fuel-intensive to less productive and more reliant on
human or animal labor. There is also a chapter that provides
an excellent framework for understanding the effects of
soil, climate, and social conditions on agricultural produc-
tivity in the developing world.

Although the book is extremely uneven in its treatment
of subject matter, there is a great deal that would be of
interest to agricultural scientists and those involved in pol-
icy and planning concerning the issues of sustainable ag-
briculture in the USA and internationally.—JANE MT.
PLEASANT, Department of Soil, Crop, and Atmospheric
Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Biogeochemistry: An Analysis of Global Change
William H. Schlesinger, Academic Press, 1250 Sixth Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92101. 1991. 443 p. Paperbacl~ $75.00, ISBN 0-12-
625157-6; Casebound: $39.95, ISBN 0-12-
625156-8.

Although global change often is equated with climatic change and
global warming, the more evident indications of
global change often are seen in chemical changes. The
author feels we can best understand the human impact on
the earth by looking at the changes occurring in the ele-
ments that undergo biogeochemical cycling.

This book, based on a biogeochemistry course taught by
the author, is divided into two parts: Part 1 is entitled
“Processes and Reactions.” Chapter 1 introduces the
importance of cycles in biogeochemistry while Chapter 2 dis-
cusses the origin of the geochemical environment in which
life started and the evolution of metabolic pathways as we
know them today. Subsequent chapters in Part 1 deal with
the microbial and chemical reactions that occur on the earth’s
surface. In addition to chapters on the atmosphere and sea,
individual chapters address rock weathering and soil de-
velopment, photosynthesis and primary productivity, fresh-
water wetlands and lakes, and rivers and estuaries. Each
chapter covers the pertinent microbial and chemical reac-
tions in sufficient detail for the reader to understand the
mechanisms involved in biogeochemical nutrient cycling.

In Part 2, entitled “Global Cycles,” the author uses
the information presented in Part 1 to develop a large-scale
view of global biogeochemical cycles. Global cycles cov-
ered include those of water, carbon, nitrogen and phospho-
rus, and sulfur.

The author takes an ecological approach throughout the
book by addressing the linkages that exist between the var-