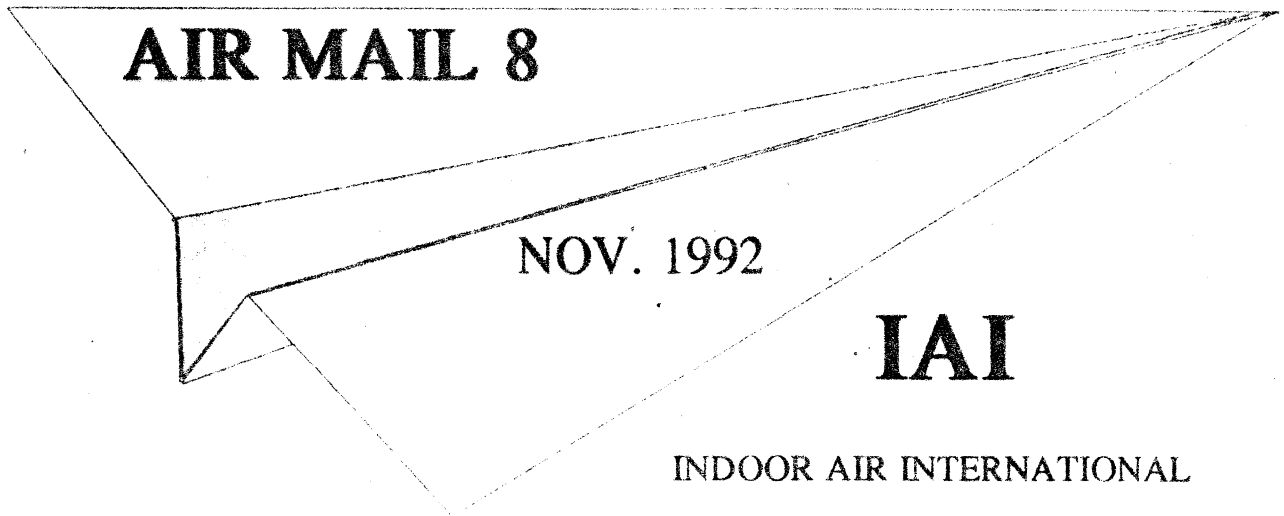


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**Indoor Air Pollution : Problems and Priorities**

Edited by G B Leslie and F W Lunau

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Since most people spend most of their lives indoors, either in offices, other work places or at home, it is timely for this book, intended for occupational health physicians and nurses, industrial hygienists, personnel and safety officers, ventilation engineers, architects and building maintainers and operators, to appear. Its sixteen chapters, all written by acknowledged experts, cover a number of biological pollutant problems, including legionellosis, bacteria, fungi, microorganisms, vegetable dusts, and danders and then a number of chemical pollutant problems including oxides of nitrogen, formaldehyde, radon, environmental tobacco smoke, mineral fibres, solvents pesticides and polychlorinated benzenes (PCBs). The last three chapters concern low frequency electromagnetic radiation, the contribution to indoor air pollution from outdoor air and the role of ventilation for controlling indoor air pollution. These various topics are covered for the most part, in a well informed, balanced and interesting way which avoids unnecessarily bombarding the reader with references to pot-boiler or controversial papers.

The tone of the book is set by the introduction which provides a historical context for the contents of the chapters which follow and which stresses the need for indoor air pollution to be discussed in relation to undeveloped and developing countries as well as to richer westernised countries. By setting the tone of the book in this broadly defined way the editors have rendered an important service at a time when the whole subject of indoor pollution is in danger of being hijacked by a limited number of researchers working on narrowly defined topics such as the, so called, sick building syndrome and pollution solely by environmental tobacco smoke.

The first chapter after the introduction is also of orientating importance. In this chapter, one of the editors discusses the perception of indoor air quality with special reference to temperature, humidity, olfactory and irritant effects. Perception and measurement often do not closely match each other and people differ widely both in awareness and in what they are prepared to accept.

Individual authors of chapters discuss the need for further research to clarify and find answers to unresolved questions. In this regard the topics that seem most urgently in need of elucidation are factors affecting the incidence of allergies, the biological effects of oxides of nitrogen, especially nitrogen dioxide, the control of exposure to radon, the health effects of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and the role and design of mechanical systems for heating and controlling the quality of indoor air.

In addition, possible health risks from airborne man-made fibres may soon come to be seen as a matter for serious concern.

This easy-to-read and well-informed book will be of great interest and value to the non-specialist but generally well-informed and socially responsible reader for whom it is primarily intended.

Francis Roe, London