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TOXICOLOGY OF COMBUSTION PRODUCTS
EDITED BY L MANZO AND D F WEETMAN FONDA-
ZIONE CLINICA DEL LAVORO EDIZIONE : PAVIA
ISBN 88-7963-004-0 1992 141pp

Poorly soluble particles of respirable size are amongst the products of many combustion processes. Their accumulation in the lung can lead to impaired clearance and fibrosis. Heavy exposure of rats to diesel exhaust fumes increases the incidence of squamous and adenocarcinomas. The question that is debatable is whether such findings under circumstances of very high exposure indicate a proportionately small risk from lower levels of exposure or whether they are merely an effect of "lung overload" under laboratory conditions that rarely occur as far as man is concerned.

Waste disposal has become a major problem in Western countries where each person produces an average of nearly 1kg of waste each day. Incineration reduces bulk, but is apt to result in the release into the atmosphere of substances which can damage human health or, perhaps more seriously, progressively impoverish the environment. National and international guidelines and regulations aiming to get to grips with these consequences of affluence are steadily being introduced.

These are some of the topics discussed in this useful and sensible short book which also considers coal combustion as a source of metallic pollutants, the generation of mutagens during the cooking of food-stuffs, the toxicology of the products of pyrolysis, including carbon monoxide, cyanide and environmental tobacco smoke and the pathological effects of Marijuana smoking.

Francis J C Roe