

nuclear power, including the breeder reactor. This opinion of the authors, and others, follows from their prediction that without rapid deployment of nuclear power, the international energy crisis will become so critical that nations presently possessing nuclear weapons will be drawn into using them.

The book summarizes data regarding the environmental and safety advantages of nuclear power in comparison to coal, solar, and biomass for pro-nuclear laypersons and professionals. They cite references showing that per unit of energy made available, nuclear power is expected to cause only one-twentieth the number of injuries that will be associated with the soft, renewable energy resources. An interesting parallel is drawn regarding the risk of living near a nuclear reactor, and the greater risk of living on the downstream side of dams, which fail at a rate of about one per year worldwide. The authors state that "If the nuclear standard of a 'maximum credible accident' were introduced into hydropower effectively all the dams throughout the world would have to be immediately dismantled."

The near antagonistic attitude the book shows toward persons who question the desirability of nuclear power limits its effectiveness in convincing critics of nuclear power regarding its desirability.

This reviewer's enthusiasm for the book was considerably dampened by Chap. 10. Devoting a full chapter to natural gas of inorganic origin from great depths in the earth as proposed by Professor T. Gold did not demonstrate careful selection of data for laypersons. Gold's university was not identified, nor were references to his publications cited, as the authors did for much of the information they

used. They clearly state that his theory is unorthodox, but they still think that "there is a good chance that it is correct." In this reviewer's opinion, the authors' lack of discrimination displayed regarding inorganic natural gas leaves uncertainty in the mind of the reader regarding the remainder of the book, unless the reader is already informed in those areas.

The book is recommended for reading by persons involved in nuclear power, but it is not recommended as an effective pro-nuclear statement for a skeptical public, or as a source of information to be used uncritically by laypersons.

*Harry W. Parker joined the chemical engineering faculty of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, as an associate professor in 1970. He was promoted to professor in 1977. In September 1979, he received leave from Texas Tech to serve for two years with the Engineering Societies Commission on Energy in Washington, D.C.*

*Previously, Dr. Parker did energy-related research for 14 years for Phillips Petroleum Company. During this time he was inventor on over 80 U.S. patents largely in the field of enhanced oil recovery. His current research interests include enhanced petroleum production methods, evaluation of processes for synfuels from coal and oil shale, and comparative economics of renewable and fossil energy sources. Dr. Parker received his BS degree in chemical engineering from Texas Tech in 1953 "with honors" and immediately continued his education at Northwestern University, earning his MS and PhD degrees in chemical engineering in 1954 and 1956, respectively.*

## CORRIGENDUM

The papers in the series entitled "Realistic Estimates of the Consequences of Nuclear Accidents," which appeared in the May 1981 issue of *Nuclear Technology*, were erroneously identified in the Table of Contents as Technical Papers. They should have been NT Letters, since the review process was not as formal as that required for papers.