

PREFACE

This is the first of the four books of the Proceedings of the XIX International Congress on Occupational Health which was held in Dubrovnik from 25 till 30 September 1978. It consists of 78 selected papers which deal with the harmful effects of chemical agents in humans and in experimental animals. The book is divided into six chapters according to the groups of chemical agents.

To facilitate dissemination of the published data the Organizing Committee of the Congress have decided to publish the Proceedings as a supplement of *Arhiv za higijenu rada i toksikologiju* (Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology) which is the official journal of the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health in Zagreb, of the Association of Occupational Health of Yugoslavia and of the Yugoslav Association of Toxicologists.

The selection of the papers for the Proceedings started at the stage when the abstracts were evaluated for presentation at the Congress. The referees appointed by the Scientific Committees of the Permanent Commission and International Association on Occupational Health and by the Congress Organizing Committee were asked to recommend the papers which they considered deserved to be published in the Proceedings. On the basis of the referees' recommendations about 300 authors were asked to submit full papers, provided that the results had not been published before. The authors were requested to submit the papers in English or in French, the two languages which are the official languages of the Permanent Commission and International Association on Occupational Health.

Most of the authors who were approached, and also some who were not, submitted the manuscript. All the papers were reviewed for their acceptability for publication. The referees' comments were focussed mainly on possible major errors in methodology or in the presentation of the results. Therefore, the authors themselves bear the responsibility for the accuracy of the results and for their interpretation.

The papers which were found acceptable for publication and were without major objections were edited and passed for press and those with major referees' comments were sent to the authors to be revised. The editorial work consisted in correcting obvious errors in the manuscript, incorporating minor referees' comments, straightening out difficult passages, making sure that language corrections did not alter the author's meaning and taking care that the proofs were correct, so that the final text might be as free of errors as possible. This was greatly helped by the authors who authorized the proofs.

The process of publishing the Proceedings has required great efforts and without the help of many people it would not have been possible. I therefore wish to express my warm thanks to all those who contributed in the preparation of the Proceedings.

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