This book succeeds in providing an excellent overview of indoor radon and its hazards; it contains a lot of useful background information, although some of it is presented in a rather abstract manner. The Becquerel unit should have been used rather than pCi for concentration values so that the data could have been compared directly with that in the current literature. Note that in Table 2-1 Pa is the symbol for proactinium and not palladium! I recommend this book to all who are interested in gaining an insight into radiation effects and radiological protection.

Plymouth (United Kingdom) *E.I. Hamilton*

Science Technology Industry (STI) Review, No. 2, September 1987, OECD, Paris, 174 pp. Price: £8.00.

New technologies are slowly stimulating change in the food processing industry, which is one of the largest contributors to manufacturing output in the OECD countries. Some of the technological advances, such as the irradiation of foods, microwave irradiation and concentration, aquaculture and separation processes, may help to redue cholesterol levels.

In this second issue of the Science, Technology and Industry Review, two key policy topics are emphasized: one is the importance of structural adjustment in the food processing industry. This is especially relevant in view of the increasing high-level political interest in trade problems resulting from domestic subsidies and overcapacity in the industry. The second question, which is dealt with in several articles, concerns micro-electronics and innovative measures. The critical relationship between diffusion of technology and industrial competitiveness and economic growth is explored in these articles. The report, which appears twice a year, is prepared by the OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry.

Plymouth (United Kingdom) E.I. Hamilton

Evaluation of Research — A Selection of Current Practices, OECD, Paris, 1987, 76 pp. Price: £5.00.

This report explores the "state of the art" in the evaluation of research as determined from the experiences of academics, civil servants, and various institutions in the member countries of the OECD. The report should allow organisations in these countries to assess their own standing in relation to the so-called "best practice". The extremes of approach range from actual concern with economic cost alone to the implementation of policies. However, the process of evaluation is extremely complex; between general reviews and highly specific studies lies unknown ground from which there is a need to extract scope, purpose, criteria and the organisation of evaluation on an

impartial and preferably internationally agreed basis. However, it is difficult to establish ground-rules which would apply to all areas of research. Specialisation in research gives rise to special institutes, special journals and an elite who are protective towards their subject. There are no techniques which allow the value and quality of one branch of science to be compared with another. Nevertheless with the cutbacks in science budgets, priorities have to be assessed. While some see bibliometric techniques as promising, the most widely accepted process is that of peer review, where the few sit in judgement on the many. Funds available for scientific research are now limited and increasingly the question to be asked is whether or not one is getting "value for money". To what extent does the research contribute to national, social and economic performance? This report concludes that the evaluation of research, even basic research, is often carried out independently of the institutional structures, forms of organisation and management practices that provide the infrastructure of scientific research. There is a need to evaluate those processes and structures which are considered to deliver scientific knowledge, and then to carefully monitor the effects of any changes on subsequent research performance.

Plymouth (United Kingdom) E.I. Hamilton

1000 Lake Survey 1986 Norway, Norwegian Institute for Water Research, NIVA, P.O. Box 333, Blindern, N-0314 Oslo, Norway, 1987, 33 pp. + Appendix. 1987.

This is a useful and well illustrated report which summarises the results of a survey made in late 1986 and which was designed to determine the present chemical status of lakes in areas sensitive to acidic deposition throughout Norway, as well as to identify any changes which have taken place since 1974. At present about 70% of the lakes sampled in southern Norway have lost their bicarbonate buffering capacity because of SO_4 acidic deposition. It is important that the quality of the lake water be improved so that fish can survive and proliferate; this will be achieved in many of the lakes only if there is a reduction in the deposition of sulphur.

Plymouth (United Kingdom) E.I. Hamilton

Proceedings of the 2nd North Sea Seminar 86 in Rotterdam — The Status of the North Sea Environment. Reasons for Concern, Vols I and II, 1987.

Volume I, 54pp. This first volume was prepared before the seminar took place and consists of three papers whose objective is to provide background information and to introduce general aspects of the North Sea and its environ-