

Book Review

Methane—Fuel for the Future

PATRICK MCGEER AND ENOCH DURBIN, EDS.

Plenum Publishing Company, New York, 1982, \$42.50, 340pp.

This book is the proceedings of the world conference on *Methane—Fuel for the Future* held in Vancouver, British Columbia during September 1981. Although the billing was that of a world conference the contributions were primarily from Canada, USA, Italy, and New Zealand.

There is a wealth of information concerning methane and its potential for filling the fuel gap in the future that has been compiled in this book. However, I was astounded by the omission of anaerobic processes for the production of methane. Two dozen pages were devoted to alcohol in a contribution by Pischinger and Siekmann entitled "The Brazilian Experience" that was not in any way related to methane as fuel for the future. It certainly would have been more appropriate to devote that space to anaerobic processes. In addition, only one article was devoted to the renewable aspects of methane in a contribution by Michael Antal, Jr. entitled "Biomass Conversion to Methane."

Although there is considerable repetition of basic facts throughout the book, there is significant information concerning estimates of methane availability, conversion of coal to methane, natural gas fueled engines, methane for diesel engines, and innovative approaches to compressed natural gas vehicles.

My time was well-invested in the reading of this book. The vast reserves of natural gas throughout the world, the extensive Italian vehicular experience with compressed natural gas since the years just prior to World War II, and the cleanliness of this fuel are well-documented and offer much food for thought when one considers the alternative fuels of the future.

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