

Book Review

This is a review of a book by D S Singh on, Water Treatment made Simple (for Operators), John Wiley and Sons Inc., Hoboken, NJ, USA, 2006

True to its title, it is relatively easy to understand compared to typical textbooks on the subject.

Since this book is written for an American audience, the introduction covers the Safe Drinking Water Act (USA), and the increased awareness that community water systems are increasingly not in compliance with drinking water standards. It discusses the role of USEPA and the alarming presence of cancer-causing compounds, and how “water treatment has become a very serious business”. While this is true for America, we who are outside the US cannot rest on our laurels.

Some of the items listed as common water treatment additives in Table 1.1 USEPA National Primary Drinking Water Contaminant Standards will cause unease to many of those seeing it for the first time. Operators will find a new respect for their role and contribution to keeping the water supply safe to drink.

His coverage on water sources is simple to read and is comprehensive. He next covered Pretreatment, Coagulation and Flocculation, Sedimentation, Softening, Stabilization, Filtration, Disinfection, Taste and Odor Control, and Fluoridation.

The topics on water transmission and hydraulics are well thought out with clear and simple-to-follow diagrams.

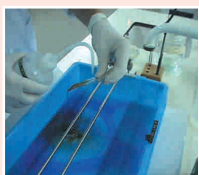
The coverage on the foundation topics of mathematics, chemistry and microbiology are well written, clear and concise. As an example, the treatment on chemistry is crisp and to the point in the coverage of important concepts related to acids and bases, solution and concentration. Besides the expected references to pathogens and coliforms, the microbiology topic even includes an introduction to the binomial nomenclature system.

These are a delight to read and will benefit any instructor who will pick up a few ideas about developing effective teaching materials. Dr Singh writes in plain and simple English, devoid of techno-jargon that is used so often in our trade.

Interestingly, he has included ‘handy’ problem-solving tables to help operators trouble shoot.

To top things off, Dr Singh has included a self-review at the end of each topic.

This book is highly recommended for operators.



Microbiological tests for water purity.

“A test is not better than the sample, and the sample is not better than the manner in which it was collected.”

By Greg Poi