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First published 1978 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
London and Basingstoke
Associated companies in Delhi Dublin
Hong Kong Johannesburg Lagos Melbourne
New York Singapore and Tokyo

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Ellis, John Graham

Safety and laboratory practice. — (Macmillan technician series).

1. Laboratories — Great Britain — Safety measures

I. Title II. Riches, Norman J

614.8'3

Q183.G7

ISBN 978-0-333-23312-2

ISBN 978-1-349-03606-6 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-03606-6

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Preface

Our aim in writing this book has been to provide a useful text for students on courses leading to the Technician Certificate of the Technician Education Council in Sector C; this includes courses in all the sciences, medical laboratory technology, plastics and polymers.

It has been stated that the content of the Level I Standard Unit, or something similar to it, must be studied by most of these students and their knowledge must be assessed. This does not mean that safety must be taught separately from the technical units; indeed, many colleges intend to integrate the teaching of safety and laboratory practice with other units where this is appropriate. We have borne this intention in mind while preparing this book.

In some places we have gone beyond the TEC Standard Unit (U76/001). For example, we have included a chapter on hazards in the biology laboratory, and in the appendix we have included data which we hope will be of permanent value to those who use this book. There will be some students following a TEC programme without regular attendance at college, and we hope that they will find what we have written is useful.

This book will also be of value to those studying the Standard Unit Introduction to Health and Safety at Work (U78/450), a free-standing unit which may be included in a wide variety of programmes.

We have attempted to bear in mind the needs of those technicians who are not following formal TEC courses but nevertheless need to know how to conduct a laboratory safely. There will be those starting work in laboratories somewhat later in life—school part-time laboratory assistants are an obvious group. Many technicians recruited to the fast-growing laboratories in the developing world should find that, with the exception of details of English law, everything we have said applies to them as well.

We would like to thank all those who have helped in many different ways in the writing of this book. We would particularly like to thank John Rowlinson and Geoff Jones, for their considerable help in the preparation of chapters 5 and 7, and Ian Bourne, for his assistance in the preparation of many of the photographs that are reproduced here.

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