

of the lack of nomenclature, assumptions, and of basic property data of the polymers being considered for use. Designers of brakes and clutches would find Part II, Chapter 2 of interest as well as the appendix.

"Tribological Limericks and Diversions," Peter J. Blau, 41 pp, Published by Peter J. Blau, 14308 Oakvale St. Rockville, MD 20853 (1984): \$6.00

REVIEWED BY T. F. J. QUINN¹

Over the past six or seven years, whenever Peter Blau has attended a Tribological gathering, this budding Poet Laureate has often been called upon to entertain with an apt limerick. Sometimes he even performed without being called upon!

Now Peter Blau has published his own 41 page collection of limericks and other trivia related to Tribology. It is a storehouse of mostly good-natured humor related to Tribologists and how they go about their various Tribological tasks. The glossary of terms used in Tribology is especially useful to the newcomer to the field. To see that a four-ball tester is "a machine with a great deal of courage" will perhaps indicate to him that, besides the obvious play on words, there is some measure of caution he must take in using the results on the tester as a basis for general behavior. Mostly, however, the humor is fairly unsophisticated and harmless, such as the definition of Tribology as "amazement expressed over the simultaneous use of three single-edged knife weapons in the

Phillipines." The derivation of this definition from "tribology" can be found in Peter Blau's little book.

The section on limericks that have been presented at various Tribological Conferences is, however, the best part of the book. There is generally enough "bite" in each limerick to make it more than just amusing, for instance:

"When looking up units of wear,
Parameters oft' fill the air;
The units we're given
Provide us a livin'
But, gosh, the frustrations we bear!" [1981]

Anyone who has tried to relate the results of other wear investigators to his own, will agree with the last line of this limerick.

The "Diversions" Section consists of Riddles and various other articles, some of which fall a little flat. I liked the riddle which asked "What do you call a Ph.D. who got his degree by studying unlubricated wear," since this describes my own background. The answer was "a dry doc." Although the "doc" is merely an amusing play on words, I was a little worried about the connotation that goes with being "dry"! The best part of the "Diversions" Section was a five-page article on 'Para-Psycho-Tribology: An Emerging Science' by Herr Prof. Dr. Ingemar Slydonkopf." The reader will, I am sure, be intrigued to learn that a dolphin has a "fractional human tribomediator equivalent index of 1.50, compared with a graduate student, noncampus mentis, of 0.5!"

Despite some of its shortcomings, this little book should be "required reading" for all Tribologists. The subject of Tribology needs a little humor to help us contend with the serious implication of our subject. Perhaps this little book will lead us into new ways of thinking about an old subject. I should warn the prospective readers, however, that the humor is very much "in-humor," so they should not expect their spouses to appreciate the "finesse" of some of the limericks.

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