of Industrial Accidents, with Special Reference to Multiple Accidents". This was closely followed by other contributions, mainly by Greenwood, and the statistical concept of accident proneness was launched. Although there have been later criticisms, it is a tribute to the careful observation and analysis of Greenwood and his colleagues that the idea of inherent individual differences in accident liability was, and continues to be accepted.

After this statistical demonstration, interest in the problem became more psychological, and research was undertaken to discover what personal qualities were associated with accident proneness. The main work in this country was carried out by E. G. Chambers and E. Farmer, as investigators for the Industrial Fatigue (later Health) Research Board. Their reports—Nos. 38, 55, 68, 74, and 84—cover work done from 1927 to 1940. These reports are still essential literature for all seriously concerned with the problems of accidents. They are, unfortunately, all out of print, and must be tracked down zealously in medical school libraries or psychology department libraries.

The present publication is an attempt to remedy this situation; it is a summary of these reports. Inevitably, some detail is lost. The full tables and graphical display of the original reports are omitted, and the description of the psychological measures employed is somewhat brief. But the main conclusions are brought out very clearly, and as a result it is easier to observe the relationship between sensorimotor, aestheto-kinetic, intelligence, mechanical aptitude and ability, and other tests of accident performance and proficiency ratings. Thus the memorandum may well be better suited to those whose interests are general and practical, rather than to those who are more concerned with research details.

The author has carefully and deliberately avoided interpolation of new material, either of direct evidence or interpreting the original data. This is particularly noticeable in discussion of the relation of the test performances to accident experience. Chambers and Farmer were the first to observe that complex tests were better predictors than tests based on simpler psychophysical processes. Later work has followed this example and treated accident proneness more as a behavioural syndrome than as a simple defect. Mr. Chambers has done great service in restoring to general circulation the essentials of the earlier work; perhaps it is not too much to hope that he will also give his account of its later development.

J. WHITFIELD

Textbook of Occupational Therapy with Chief Reference to Psychological Medicine. By Eamon N. M. O'Sullivan. (Pp. x + 319. 21s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1955.

Work therapy was often a polite and somewhat cynical way of describing the cheap labour used on the chores and odd jobs of the mental hospital kitchen and farm. The surprisingly good results of this rather unscientific "therapy" in so many patients has long ago removed the cynicism and made overdue a proper study of how it works. But it is a difficult step, particularly in mental illness, from demonstrating the useful effects of a particular treatment to understanding the processes involved. Occupational therapy is now universally regarded as one of the mainstays of the in-patient care for mental as well as many other diseases, but its claim to be a science will not be accepted by all. Dr. O'Sullivan's textbook does little to persuade us of its scientific basis, though it is a good practical introduction to the subject for those training to be occupational therapists.

After a brief historical preamble the book becomes a description of the occupational therapy which is arranged for nearly all the patients in Killarney Mental Hospital. There is a brief section dealing with the classification of mental illness and another on "craft analysis" in which an attempt is made to define principles upon which the job may be best suited to the patient and his disease. It is in dealing with this latter problem by generalizations that the occupational therapist is on most dangerous ground and it is here that the main emphasis must be upon discussion with other members of the treatment team, rather than upon classifications or "principles". The last part of the book is a useful and detailed description of various orthodox procedures in occupational therapy such as weaving, woodwork, cane-craft, etc., with analyses of them from practical, therapeutic, and economic points of view. Emphasis is placed throughout upon the "socializing" effect as well as the individual benefits of occupational therapy.

Work is only one small part of the treatments aimed at the controlled reintroduction of a normal social life to the mentally sick, but it was the earliest to be used and is the most widely applied. So far the theoretical framework is almost non-existent and, though Dr. O'Sullivan wisely does not speculate, he could perhaps, have listed for us some of the current hypotheses. We do not really know why doing things helps some people to get better; however, it does, and this book introduces us to the job of the occupational therapist and tells us how to organize a unit in a large mental hospital.

E. MAURICE BACKETT