BOOK REVIEWS

Some Aspects of Chronic Bronchitis. Edited by F. A. H. Simmonds, and L. B. Hunt. (Pp. 87; 12s. 6d.) London: Livingstone. 1964.

This booklet details the proceedings of a symposium held in November 1963 at the Royal Society of Medicine. The subject was discussed under four headings: (1) the general problem and environmental factors, (2) the aetiology and nature of the disorder as manifested in the individual, (3) the possibilities of influencing the disease by changes in environment and behaviour, (4) the specific treatment of the disease and the management of the patient. The 15 speakers covered a wide range of interests, including general practice. The meeting closed with a half-hour panel discussion.

The papers are short, perhaps too short, for the conference covered an immense amount of ground in a single day. But there is a great deal of practical information given, notably about light-weight portable oxygen apparatus, the best way to use antibiotics, and the criteria for the use of steroids. There is also a particularly interesting section on the cost of antibiotic treatment and the much larger amount saved by its effective use in terms of National Insurance sickness benefits. The booklet is well illustrated, four of the plates being in colour.

W. BROCKBANK

L'Uomo e il Mondo Sommerso. By F. Molino and D. Zannini. (Pp. 454.) Turin: Minerva Medica. 1964.

The authors first describe the early history of deep sea diving, noting the depths reached by the pioneers and the methods employed.

There are excellent descriptions of various waters hitherto explored and some striking illustrations which show the many variations in the configuration of the sea bottom and the flora and fauna found there.

The physiological changes occurring under pressure are well described, and from this the writers describe the aetiology of the disorders which may occur in the human body. Air embolism and 'the bends' are carefully studied, and some interesting figures are given to illustrate the changes occurring in the blood and tissues.

The treatment and prevention of sundry disorders of divers are noted. Overdistension of the lungs and of the gastro-intestinal tract are noted, and much attention is given to the effects of excess or deficiency of oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and other gases. In the chapter on the effects of under-water explosions the value of anti-blast equipment developed by the British is noted.

Ear troubles and sinus disorders associated with diving are well described.

In their final chapters the authors describe the many

kinds of dangerous sea creatures which may trouble divers.

It is noted that among the infections to which divers may be exposed are typhoid fever and leptospirosis, though the hazard much diminishes as the salt content of the water rises.

Accidents from the use of harpoons or other appliances are not uncommon and many are known from the unexpected proximity of ships' propellers. It is suggested that easily visible marks indicating the presence of divers below should always be placed on the surface with suitable anchorage.

G. C. PETHER

Staublungenerkrankungen und ihre Differentialdiagnose (Pneumoconioses and Their Differential Diagnosis). Edited by H. Bohlig. (Pp. xii + 386; 16 tables; illustrated; DM 150.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1964.

This book is made up of numerous sections written by the editor himself or by one or sometimes two of his collaborators, Dr. G. Jacob, Dr. R. Kiviluoto, and Dr. H. Müller. It is not a systemic textbook of pneumoconiosis nor does it deal with all the varieties of dust conditions of the lungs. The main concern of the book is the differential diagnosis of dust inhalation diseases. Attention is given to the personal and industrial history, the clinical picture and particularly to the radiological findings. As all the contributors are radiologists and since radiological findings are the basis of diagnosis in pneumoconiosis, radiology is a predominant feature. This is shown by the numerous excellent photographs of x-ray films, often grouped in twos or threes to show changes in individuals over a period of time. Pathology is discussed mostly in relation to changes in the x-ray film. Photographs of large lung sections are shown: several of these were produced by Professor Gough.

In a detailed description of the various classifications of the opacities in pneumoconiosis Drs. Bohlig and Müller plead for an amendment to the Geneva Classification of 1958. This is to substitute the small letter f for the capital letter L for 'linear opacities'; this would bring them into line with 'small opacities' which are at present denoted by the small letters a, b, and c. This, among other advantages, would allow the quantitative features represented by 1, 2, and 3 to be noted as they are in 'small opacities'. It would have the advantage, for example, of allowing a classification of the opacities in asbestosis.

A very notable feature throughout the book is the full discussion of points in which opinions are quoted from the literature. The extent of this may be measured by the fact that there are over 1,800 references listed at the end of the book. Radiologists interested in pneumoconiosis