Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials. 3rd ed. By N. Irving Sax. (Pp. 1251; 326s. 6d.) London: Reinhold Publishing Corporation. 1968.

The third edition of what has become a virtually indispensable reference book for doctors and scientists in industry comes five years after the second edition and 12 years after the first. By using smaller type in the earlier chapters it has been possible to keep this very large book to about the same size yet to incorporate more material.

The general layout is similar to that of the previous edition. The bulk of the book is devoted, as before, to an exhaustive list of chemicals with the toxic hazard rating of each and a short note on counter measures where applicable. The hazard is assessed on a simple rating code and the cross reference to other similar materials is very helpful. The value of this information, the ready accessibility and the ease of reference has resulted in the wide use of 'Sax', and it is to be found at the elbow of most people throughout the world who have to deal with toxic materials and who can afford to have it. One still feels the lack of references to original sources, but to have included even the most important would have made the book too large and unwieldy.

The more discursive chapters on toxicity, radiation hazards, air pollution, allergic disease in industry, and control of the environment have been brought up to date – to the time of going to press – which is the most one could hope for. Some inaccuracies in the earlier editions have been corrected, for example, aniline is no longer wrongly described as a carcinogen, but some remain, for example, the reader could still be confused between byssinosis and mill fever.

From the time it first appeared this book must have been constantly on the desk of most industrial physicians and occupational hygienists and may be by the bedside of some. The third edition is a worthy and timely successor to the first two and, while it may be too heavy, in weight and in content, for bedtime reading, it will continue to be much consulted and referred to by even the most expert. The less expert should regard it as a rough guide to toxicity and should supplement it by consulting original papers, more extensive works or experienced colleagues. With this reservation, one can only add that to be without 'Sax' is to be at a disadvantage.

T. S. SCOTT

Questionnaire Design and Attitude Measurement. By A. N. Oppenheim. (Pp. ix + 298; 18s.) London: Heinemann Educational Books. Reprinted 1968.

Much loose survey work, generally of the inadequately planned 'fact-gathering' type, is conducted by medical and social researchers including practitioners of occupational medicine. Defects stem from an unscientific approach often allied to operational deficiencies, woolly thinking, and failure to understand the logical restrictions of 'epidemiological' evidence. Any book which deals intelligibly, scientifically, simply yet thoroughly with the formidable problems surveys raise is a welcome addition to the sparse literature available in assimilable form to the non-specialist.

The present textbook aims 'to provide guidance for the design of questionnaires and to discuss various techniques for the measurement of attitudes and their analysis', but in fact ranges wider and examines informatively most contingent aspects of survey design and operation. It contains nine logically sequenced chapters each with a short selected reading list; a 30-page appendix comprising mainly useful 'occupational prestige' scales; and an adequate mixed subject and proper name index.

Particularly strong are those chapters dealing with questionnaires (chap. 2-4) and attitude measurement and associated techniques (chap. 5-7) which are (or should be) vital to any survey which puts even simple questions to individuals. Less satisfactory, though by no means unsuccessful, is the last chapter – The Quantification of Questionnaire Data – where the author tackles the formidable, perhaps impossible task of explaining complex data handling and analytical methods in everyday terms: in fact, those parts of the book dealing with statistical treatment are generally less convincing than the others. Everywhere points are clearly explained and illustrated with well-chosen examples, and the lesson of pilot studies is forcefully taught.

Throughout, the writing is lucid and coherent in the now familiar mid-Atlantic idiom. This may grate on some ears, but the author displays easy mastery of the style and allows it to lapse only rarely into such jargon as '[decisions include] for each variable the order of questions within each question sequence, such as funneling, quintamensional design, and factual versus attitudinal opening' (p. 25).

This is an excellent book and can be enthusiastically recommended to all planning survey work. To such researchers a *cri de coeur*: consult this book before, not during, the survey; and cultivate the simple scientific approach admirably re-stated in chapter one.

P. FROGGATT

The Physiology and Medicine of Diving and Compressed Air Work. Edited by P. B. Bennett and D. H. Elliott. (Pp. 528; 150 illustrations; 160s.) London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cassell. 1969.

Rarely does a reviewer have the opportunity to state categorically that the book he is considering is a landmark in the field with which it deals. This is such a book. It has its imperfections and the architecture might not be completely satisfying but it will be very many years before any author can claim to have written an adequate paper on diving and compressed air work without referring to this monumental work. The Ministry of Defence (Navy) is fortunate to have on its staff a civilian scientist, Dr. Bennett, and a uniformed medical scientist, Surgeon-Commander Elliott, who can together attract the eminent contributors to round out the subject of the book. Naturally it reflects in major part the interest of the two editors, inert gas narcosis and decompression sickness, but other aspects are covered to greater or lesser degrees. Altogether 23 writers, as well as the two editors, contribute to this volume. It is a good point to see an article by some civil engineers on the compressed air environment in such a volume as it reminds all