hazard in coalmining, and the National Coal Board has recently set new standards and has changed over from a particle count to a gravimetric system of measurement. Only 45% of drivages in stone are satisfactory from a dust point of view, so that the 'hard headed man' of the clinical textbooks is still the most likely type of miner to contract a dust disease. Pneumoconiosis is not decreasing in east Wales and is decreasing in west Wales only marginally, but elsewhere in the coalfields there has been a systematic decline in prevalence by age over the last 10 years.

The broadmindedness of the Coal Board's Medical Service is shown by its interest in such things as the ergonomics of lifting, of which there are some illustrations. The men in the pictures are shown lifting heavy weights with their legs well apart. On the other hand, my father taught me (among other things) to lift with my legs together, because this kept the hernial orifices closed. I wonder which is right?

The problem of noise has been tackled in a courageous fashion and the Coal Board has not been afraid to do audiograms on employees who were likely to demonstrate permanent threshold shift.

During the year covered by the report, the staff of the Medical Service produced two dozen publications.

This report is well worth study, particularly by the medical staff of large labour intensive industries or those with difficult environmental problems.

R. C. BROWNE

Hormones and Resistance. By H. Selye. 2 Volumes. (Pp. 1140; 37 figs; DM.268). Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1971.

This book is clearly the product of years of personal research and carefully recorded reading of the literature. It is a tribute to the industry and application of its author, for his thorough approach is explicit in the text. Whether he succeeds in his intention, however, will depend very much on the personal preferences or prejudices of the reader.

The intending reader must consult the remarks in the preface to the first volume, in which Professor Selye sets out his philosophy for the design of the book. He points out that an author must first collect the facts of his subject by an analysis of the literature, and then in the light of his own personal experience he evaluates the material gathered to synthesize the whole. In so doing, to maintain continuity, he often deprives the reader of significant detail, such as criteria applied to an experimental situation, or the nature of controls. Professor Selye points out that his own 'analytico-synthetic' style

attempts to overcome this, providing the reader with more useful information without using unnecessary padding of transitional sentences and circumlocution.

In this aim he certainly succeeds, for the book is constructed on the basis of chapters introduced by a short review of the subject matter, followed by summaries of relevant references. In consequence, the book becomes an excellent source of reference material, and as a guide to further reading will be much consulted by physiologists, pharmacologists, and toxicologists. However, the reader new to the subject will find the book rather heavy reading, and will miss the smooth flowing review to introduce him to the field. He will also need both volumes so that he may freely consult the Glossary of the 'Symbolic Shorthand System (SSS) for Physiology and Medicine', plus the section of Bibliography to provide details of the sources of the references. The fragmentary type of approach will not commend itself to those who enjoy reading medical texts in well-formed and flowing prose. The author allows himself to expand only in Chapter II 'History' and Chapter X 'Theories'.

Overall this book is a superb review of reference material which will be much consulted but will not be read in full from cover to cover; its enormous cost will restrict it to the wealthier libraries only.

D. DAVIES

NOTICE

ILO-U/C International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses, 1971

This is the latest issue of the well-known International Classification published by the International Labour Office for the first time in 1958.

The present Classification, which was finalized in collaboration with the UICC/Cincinnati Group, classifies in detail any type of pneumoconiosis, including those characterised by small irregular opacities, and makes it possible to follow the evolution of the radiological picture.

The set of standard films illustrating the ILO-U/C Classification, 1971, is composed of 21 radiographs, standard size. They provide examples of the various types of small opacities, rounded and irregular, and of the various categories of profusion. An explanatory paper on the use of the classification is enclosed with each set. Price: Sw. frs 250 (including mailing and insurance charges).

Orders, to be paid in advance, should be addressed to: International Labour Office, Occupational Safety and Health Branch, CH 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland.