

Book reviews

summary of advantages and disadvantages. Incidentally, the five references (three to Tunbridge) quoted in the former paper are virtually the only ones given in the publication. The most interesting section for the practising UK occupational health doctor is the 18-page general discussion and conclusion, for it is seen that the enthusiasms and doubts that are raised here are matched in New South Wales. It is worthwhile reading this part as it reminds one of problems to be solved and issues not yet squarely faced.

JOHN RICH

A Survey of Respiratory Disease in the Pottery Industry. By A. J. Fox, M. Greenberg, G. L. Ritchie, and R. N. J. Barraclough. (Pp. 20; 35p). HMSO for Health and Safety Executive: London. 1975.

In 1968 a survey of the pottery industry was proposed, in order to establish the prevalence of pneumoconiosis and other respiratory disease, and to relate it to type of work, age, sex, length of employment, and smoking habits. This brief report summarises that survey, in which respiratory questionnaire, vitalograph, radiography, and occupational history were recorded for about 6000 employees. Concentrations of respirable dust (both total and quartz alone) were measured on 600 occasions in 280 different jobs and were found to exceed the total lung volume in 50 of them. The number of workers in these 50 jobs is not given but it appears to be about 300. The only specific job mentioned as having a high exposure to silica is glaze-spraying, but various jobs in the preparation of material and body, in wall-tile pressing, and 'industrial-other' also carried this risk. Glaze-spraying and the preparation-work were associated with both excess respiratory symptoms and radiological abnormality, but in most other instances the symptoms were associated with smoking or previous work in collieries, and radiological abnormalities were also related to previous dusty work. The prevalence of pneumoconiosis was only 1.6% (2.6% in men and of chronic bronchitis only 1.9%). Pneumoconiosis was not related to smoking, but respiratory symptoms, and reduction of both FEV and FVC were related to smoking and to increasing age. The prevalence of chronic bronchitis was related to total dust concentration, and the FEV tended to be reduced in those workers

who were exposed to the highest concentration of quartz.

There are one or two discrepancies between text and tables and the discussion of the findings has been so compressed (in the interests of brevity) that it is difficult to follow. Moreover the authors seem uncertain of their conclusions, which are often expressed in the form 'would indicate' or 'might suggest'. This is unkind to the reader who does not have access to the original material and cannot draw his own conclusions. One is left with a feeling of disappointment that so extensive an investigation has produced such indefinite results. It is hoped that repetition of the survey in 1980 will be more rewarding.

G. L. LEATHART

Notices**Industrial Laboratory Health and Safety**

The Centre for Extension Studies at Loughborough University of Technology will hold the next in its series of short courses from 3-7 April 1977. The course is intended primarily for industrial laboratory managers who wish to improve their understanding of legal, technical, and management aspects; it will cover chemical, biological, electrical, mechanical, and radiation hazards.

The course fee will be £95 including accommodation. Further information may be obtained from the Centre for Extension Studies, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 3TU.

Second International Course in Industrial Toxicology

The Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, and the Finnish Association of Industrial Medicine, are organising this course which will take place at the Hanasaari Cultural Centre, Helsinki from 8-14 August 1977. Registrations should be sent to Dr Harri Vainio by 1 May and a maximum of 50 participants will be accepted. A degree in medicine, chemistry, pharmacology, technology, or some related field is required. The participant should be familiar with basic biochemistry and general research methods he; should possess a good knowledge of English, as the course will be conducted in that language. The course fee will be \$250, excluding meals and accommodation. All registrants will be asked to pay an initial fee of \$50 upon registration.

Further details may be obtained from: Dr Harri Vainio, MD, Department of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology, Insti-

tute of Occupational Health, Haartmaninkatu 1, 00290 Helsinki 29, Finland.

Fourth International Advanced Course in Epidemiological Methods

The Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki is organising a course in epidemiological methods with special reference to occupational health problems. The course is open to research workers from all countries and will comprise lectures and exercises on epidemiological methods, such as study designs, sampling, control of confounding, and data analysis. The participants should bring with them problems that can be discussed during the course.

The course will take place from 15-26 August 1977 and a maximum of 30 participants will be accepted. A degree in medicine, statistics, sociology, technology, or some related field is required. The participants should be familiar with general research methods and possess a good knowledge of English, the language in which the lectures will be given.

The course fee will be \$250, excluding meals and accommodation. All registrants will be asked to pay an incidental fee of \$75 upon notification that they have been accepted.

The course will be held at the Institute of Occupational Health, Haartmaninkatu, and further details may be obtained from Mr Markku Nurminen, LSc, Bureau chief, Department of Epidemiology and Biometry, Institute of Occupational Health, Haartmaninkatu 1, 00290 Helsinki 29, Finland. The closing date for registrations is 15 March 1977.

Prix International René Barthe 1978

Le Prix René Barthe est destiné à récompenser un travail récent, original, concernant la Médecine du Travail ou l'Hygiène Industrielle. Les travaux personnels d'auteurs de toute nationalité peuvent être présentés.

Ce Prix, d'un montant de 8.000 F., est décerné tous les trois ans, à l'occasion des Congrès Internationaux de Médecine du Travail, organisés sous les auspices de la Commission Internationale Permanente de Médecine du Travail.

Le prochain Prix sera décerné, en 1978, à l'occasion du 19ème Congrès International de Médecine du Travail.

Le règlement du Prix peut être demandé au: Comité du Souvenir du Docteur René Barthe, 30 Avenue de Wagram, 75008 Paris, France et les travaux devront être envoyés, à la même adresse, avant le 15 Décembre 1977.



A Survey of Respiratory Disease in the Pottery Industry

G. L. Leathart

Br J Ind Med 1977 34: 69

doi: 10.1136/oem.34.1.69

Updated information and services can be found at:

<http://oem.bmj.com/content/34/1/69.citation>

Email alerting service

These include:

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:

<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>