those areas which the author regards as uncharted.

This review will no doubt introduce the topic of shiftwork to a new and nationally wider circle of readers. It will certainly serve to underline to them the range and complexity of the problems involved, but they should not regard it as the final or latest word on the subject.

R. SERGEAN

Toxicology of Pesticides. By Wayland J. Hayes, Jr. (Pp. 580; \$39.50). Williams & Wilkins: Baltimore. 1975.

Unfortunately toxicology has never been a discipline that has attracted many able scientists from the more glamorous aspects of pharmacology, yet it can be easily argued that the development of selective pesticides has been of much greater benefit to mankind than all the components of the drug revolution used in the treatment of human disease. This enormous benefit has also been obtained at much less cost! As pointed out by the late John Barnes, more agricultural workers die each year from tractor accidents than the total number poisoned by pesticides since they have been in common use. Most of such cases were undoubtedly due to gross misuse.

This book is a magnificent testament to the knowledge that has been developed into their proper use. It begins with the best introduction I know on the benefits from pesticides in modern agriculture and an assessment of the problems posed by pesticides. This introduction is followed by three chapters on the general principles of toxicology as applied to pesticides, with particular reference to dosage, metabolism, and nature of chemical injuries produced. A further three chapters are devoted to studies in man and these are followed by diagnosis and treatment of poisoning, and an excellent synopsis on prevention of poisoning which should be of great practical use to all doctors involved in occupational medicine. Finally, and appropriately, there is a chapter on the effects of pesticides on wildlife, which should be mandatory reading for all who have read *Silent Spring*.

This book is an excellent, up to date and exhaustive study of modern pesticides. As an example, it includes all measurements of pesticide levels in human breast milk. It is produced by a photographic process which is almost as good as old-fashioned printing, but its price of £22 is unbelievable for just over 500 pages. It should certainly

be available for reference in all departments concerned with occupational medicine.

R. KILPATRICK

Travel Medicine: A Handbook for Practitioners. By Anthony C. Turner. (Pp. 250; £4.25). Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, London, and New York. 1975.

The author writes 'The purpose of this book is twofold. Firstly to inform the GP of advice he can give his patients before they travel; the advances in preventive medicine with regard to tropical diseases have probably been greater than in any other branch of medicine. Secondly to help the GP in his differential diagnosis of these exotic diseases'.

The first chapter on 'pre-travel immunisation' and the second on 'pre-travel and in-travel advice' cover part of the first aim. The history both of international sanitary regulations and of the discovery of the aetiology of motion sickness are given, although why a general practitioner would wish to advise his patients of this is not clear. Much useful information is in fact contained in these chapters. In the section on travel sickness no doses are given of 'the most popularly used drugs' and mgm is used in place of mg for the one dose that is later given.

Further chapters on climate and acclimatisation, diseases of insanitation, and insect-borne diseases complete aim one.

In the second part of the book, post-travel symptomatology, heat disorders, fevers, alimentary and urinary tract infections, skin problems, bites, stings, venereal diseases, other infections both parasitic and non-parasitic are discussed. The advice given on the diagnosis and management of LGV using the Frei test and bed rest sounds rather old fashioned. Fitness to travel by air is a useful chapter.

The book concludes with a good review of medical assessment for living in warm climates.

Appendices are given on the vaccination requirements (WHO, January 1975) and on the climate of various countries, the location of yellow fever vaccination centres around the world, admitted malarious areas (WHO, 1972), overseas medical costs, and useful addresses.

Some of the material in the appendices is available elsewhere (WHO) and will date rapidly. It seems a pity to add to the cost of the book by including such

information. A bibliography and index complete the book.

This book will be useful to those with little experience in this field, but will not compete with Brian Maegraith's book *Exotic Diseases in Practice* in the geography of disease, in useful clinical pointers or in the clinical aspects of exotic disease.

In summary, a useful book for reference, which could also help nursing staff. It is expensive even by today's prices and is written in rather turgid English. It is a pity that the companion volume *The Traveller's Health Guide* was not available for review at the same time.

A. WARD GARDNER

An Introduction to Epidemiology. By Michael Alderson. (Pp. 226; £4.50). Macmillan Press Ltd: London. 1976.

People concerned with occupational health will recognise that, as in many other branches of medicine, epidemiology 'the study of the determinants of the incidence and prevalence of disease' is playing an ever-increasing part. Although this book is not specifically aimed at occupational health physicians it does provide a general introduction to the way epidemiologists think and tackle problems, and a guide to the tools of their trade.

The chapter titles: the Role of Epidemiology; the Use of Mortality Statistics; Other Sources of Routine Data; Cross-sectional Studies; Retrospective Studies; Prospective Studies; Intervention Studies; and Medical Care Studies, conceal the emphasis that is placed on practical aspects of the subject. Examples such as the rise in daily deaths following the fog in December 1952 and the rise in cigarette consumption coupled with a rise in deaths from lung cancer throughout this century are used to illustrate particular epidemiological techniques. After describing the examples each chapter is then concerned at a general level with the important aspects of study design, methods of analysis and the interpretation of the data.

Those readers who will want to use this book as a foundation for epidemiological investigations are likely to find the omission of definitions and technical explanation a little frustrating. The approach results in considerable forward referencing which occasionally leads to a nonexistent or wrong subsection. There is, however, an extensive list of references at the end of each chapter and these provide the basis for further reading on most aspects of