BOOK REVIEWS

here they appropriately follow the paper on physical environment. There is surprisingly no reference to lighting and colour in factories.

One might have expected the special prominence given to medico-legal aspects to which an entire chapter is devoted and there are repeated references throughout the book to the growing practice of litigation. Initial medical examinations, medical records, and even treatment may have legal implications at a later date, and every accident involves a probable claim for compensation. One cannot help sympathizing with the contributor who describes at length the necessary qualities of a good medical witness and with our professional colleagues in America who are apparently so often involved in these disputes.

Two unusual papers on the problem of anxiety states among employees offer methods of treatment that will seem strangely unorthodox to the English mind. They recommend in general what is described as effective discipline which condemns "a policy of humoring and appeasement . . . or rearranging the external environment to suit his (the patient's) fancied needs". This seems to imply a firm hand by supervisor and doctor working conjointly, a policy which will apparently produce better results than other forms of therapy and in particular "preoccupation with long histories and diagnostic minutiae".

The book has some surprising omissions and there is little or no information, for example, on the pneumoconioses, the occupational traumatic, infective and malignant diseases, or the health of young persons and the elderly. Several papers will seem almost rudimentary to industrial medical officers but the majority compensate for their lack of detail with bibliographies which in a few instances are quite impressive. The book is nevertheless a notable achievement by the staff of one firm although it is obviously intended more especially for the benefit of safety engineers and chemists. The general picture of the work of a medical service in a large industrial enterprise of international repute is well depicted and should be studied by everyone concerned with occupational health. The opinions of our American colleagues are stimulating and provide food for thought, however unpalatable in some respects to us in Great Britain.

D. KENWIN HARRIS


Although Mr. Lowden has written his book primarily for the guidance of young men and women taking up casualty work, it can also be read with profit by those responsible for the treatment of the injured in industry. The clinical features of the common conditions likely to be met with in a casualty department are well described and the treatment advised is generally in accordance with accepted modern thought, but it is surely questionable whether people suffering from acute synovitis are still subjected to absolute fixation of the limb and a prohibition on work for three weeks. Nevertheless, the author's recommendations are in most respects very sound and it is greatly to be hoped that heed will be taken of what he has to say about the proper use of penicillin and other antibiotics.

Mr. Lowden obviously knows his working men, for after describing the classical treatment for sprained finger and mallet finger he admits that they do not usually find it acceptable. He lays stress on simplicity as the keynote to restoration of function and quite rightly considers that "repeated function of the injured member in ways it is used to does more to restore ability than twice as much organized exercise". But, he does not overlook the importance of good treatment from the outset and is strongly of the opinion that the best way of avoiding compensation neurosis is "to get the patients well of their organic conditions swiftly and effectively: to maintain an atmosphere of optimism and efficiency: to establish a reputation for rapid recovery and good results—to be good at the job. If everyone gets better in a few days no one has time to become neurotic". In fact the perfect picture of the well-run works surgery!

A deep understanding of the many problems which arise in dealing with industrial injuries and of the importance of a right approach to the patient runs right through this book and sets a pattern which would save many thousands of man-hours every year if it were followed by all accident surgeons. Attention is drawn to the importance of maintaining close touch with industrial health departments, and the help that may be obtained by drawing on the experience of their medical officers is emphasized. Special praise is given to the arrangements made by the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers and used by its member firms.

The organization of a casualty department is described fully and the legal aspects are also dealt with in considerable detail. This book is well produced, well illustrated, and most readable: it should be in the hands of all industrial medical officers.

G. F. KEATINGE


In the field of toxicology Dr. von Oettingen is probably at least as well known for his literary compilations as for his experimental contributions. The present volume is cast in a characteristic mould calculated to arouse the admiration of the reader for the assiduity rather than for the imagination of the author. In just over 400 pages some account is given of about 320 compounds. For a majority little more than bare data on their physical and chemical properties is given. Nevertheless, the fact that no reference is made to work describing the biological properties of a compound may be taken as good evidence that no such publication yet exists. This seems to be a reasonable deduction from a study of the accounts of well known compounds. Here the author has combed the literature both of America and Europe with great care and also included references to works that must have a very limited circulation.
The Casualty Department

G. F. Keatinge

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