BOOK REVIEWS

The resulting confusion is the more regrettable at a time when there is a growing understanding of the differences between the two conditions, particularly in their liability to open tuberculosis.

To the English reader the omission of British references is striking. Thus in the chapter on experimental pathology, while the views of Professor Poliard (1933) on the pathogenesis of silicosiis are described, there is no mention of the work of Professor King and his colleagues. The "two disease" hypothesis that simple pneumoconiosis of coalworkers is due to inhalation of coal dust and progressive massive fibrosis to tuberculosis is never clearly stated. Instead, on page 29, Gough's views on coal-miners' pneumoconiosis are confused with his views on classical silicosiis and a misleading impression is created. The I.L.O. international classification (1950) of chest radiographs for pneumoconiosis has perhaps particular relevance to this hypothesis; but in any case, it should surely have been briefly described. The illuminating results of epidemiological research (other than a brief mention of occupational mortality) are almost completely ignored.

The detailed account of the medico-legal aspects of silico-tuberculosis in France and Germany may prove useful to doctors in those countries concerned with compensation. The situation in Great Britain, however, is discussed a briefly to be of any value.

The book is well produced and the reproductions of the radiographs are generally adequate, though the excavation said to be present in the left upper lobe in Fig. 6 (page 55) is not seen.

Dr. Schweitzer has attempted a difficult task. It is regrettable that her book—obviously the result of considerable labour—adds little to our understanding or knowledge of silico-tuberculosis.

I. T. T. HIGGINS


The applications of radioactive isotopes and nuclear radiations in therapeutic radiology and in the diagnosis and study of disease were discussed in some detail at the Geneva Conference; those who are interested in these branches of medicine will find a great deal of useful and up-to-date information in the 85 papers contained in this volume. The impact of nuclear energy on radiotherapy has turned out, so far, to be less dramatic than many of the ardent prognostications of five and 10 years ago. Considerable progress has been made, however, in the refinement of well-established techniques and in the introduction of new types of radioactive sources, and there are reasonable grounds for optimism about the uses of internally administered radioisotopes, particularly in the treatment of certain diseases of the blood and of the thyroid gland.

The greater part of the volume is concerned with the uses of radioactive isotopes in the diagnosis and study of disease and it is evident that these techniques have already made an impressive contribution in the realm of physiology and pathology.

The biological effects of radiation and the problems of radiological protection are dealt with in volumes 11 and 13 of the proceedings of the Geneva Conference.

A. S. McLEAN


In 1919, the Industrial Fatigue Research Board published a study by Greenwood and Woods, "The Incidence
Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

A. S. McLean

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