National Coal Board has made great efforts to control
the production of dust and one can say, with due respect
to the warning, that these statistics show some evidence
that these efforts are successful. On the other hand, in
some of the other industries, such as asbestos working,
there is not only an increased awareness but a suspicion
of a real increase.

CHARLES L. SUTHERLAND

(Pp. 96; N. kr. 30.00.) Norwegian Universities Press.
1964.

The recent Norwegian studies on shift work and health
are well known, but unfortunately there have only been
a few disconnected accounts for English-speaking
readers. This monograph presents a full report for the
first time in the English language.

This is a very detailed and careful study of the workers
at three factories in Odda in the south-west of Norway
during 1948-53. There were 1,106 workmen, of whom 345
were day workers (either one shift or two shifts), 380
were shift workers (including the night shift), and 350
were former shift workers who had transferred to day
shift for medical or other reasons (the separation of this
group from day workers is an important distinction, not
always made); in addition there was a small group of 31
who did not fit clearly into the main categories. As well
as periodical medical examinations designed for this
study, special examinations, including electrocardio-
graphy and haematology, were carried out in the final
year together with inquiries into the attitude to shift
work, sleeping patterns, and housing conditions. For the
year 1952 detailed records of short and long term sickness
absences were kept together with records of 'all the work-
men's medical consultations with the medical practi-
tioners in the district'. A supplementary study of sick
leave and absences from work of 302 labourers in the age
group 51 to 65 was made for the period 1939-51.

The results are presented in 69 tables which are
discussed in the text (and which lie close to those parts
of the text dealing with them). The author points out
that his groups do not all have the same age structure,
and he attempts to make allowance for this but without
the more sophisticated statistical techniques which the
British and American writers have come to accept almost
as routine. Although this and other shortcomings may
detract from the strength of some of the arguments
(particularly those in section 9), the findings and the
discussions still merit careful consideration. Any
industrial medical officer who is concerned with the care
of shift workers will find this monograph instructive and
stimulating. Who does not pay lip service to the im-
portance of adequate housing facilities for shift workers?
Who explores this important factor during medical
examinations for shift workers? How well placed are we,
as doctors, to advise on the suitability or otherwise of a
man for shift work? How much do we know and how
much is belief? This contribution takes us part of the
way.

There are a few typographical errors on page 23; a
figure and a column of print have been transposed, on
page 26 the text and table do not tally exactly, and in
table 68 there are some obvious misprints of numerals.

W. R. Lee

NOTICES

British Occupational Hygiene Society
The Second International Symposium on Inhaled
Particles and Vapours will be held in Cambridge,
September 28 to October 1, 1965.
Further particulars may be obtained from:
Dr. J. S. McLintock,
Medical Service, National Coal Board, Hobart House,
Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

The Italian Society of Occupational Medicine
The 28th Congress of the Society will take place in
Naples from October 6 to 9, 1965. It will be opened at
the University (Corso Umberto I') on the afternoon of
October 6.
Reports: Barotrauma in diving, by S. Caccuri, G.
Fradà, M. Raso, D. Zannini; The industrial physician,
by E. P. Vigliani.
On October 8 the members' meeting of the Mediter-
anean Society of Occupational Medicine will be held.
The Congress Committee will organize trips in Naples
and its surroundings for those members and their wives
attending the Congress.
President: Prof. S. Caccuri; General Secretary:
Prof. T. Sessa, Institute of Occupational Medicine,
Department of Medicine, Policlinico, Piazza Miraglia,
University of Naples.

University of Manchester
A four-day course from September 13 to 16 inclusive,
1965, on Occupational Skin Problems has been organized
jointly by the Departments of Occupational Health and
Dermatology. It will be of interest to dermatologists,
industrial medical officers, and examining medical prac-
titioners. The number of places will be strictly limited.
Fee £12. Applications should be made to the Secretary,
Nuffield Department of Occupational Health, University
of Manchester, Clinical Sciences Building, York Place,
Manchester 13, from whom further particulars can be
obtained.
Shift Work and Health

W. R. Lee

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http://oem.bmj.com/content/22/3/246.citation

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