

reliability. Since production is a man-machine system, a factor is designated as 'human confidence' which is considered as synonymous with safety. This is a useful concept, particularly as it enlarges the amount of data upon which the safety investigator may work, to include work factors other than those directly concerned with accidents. It is valid however only if more accidents occur as system reliability decreases, and the authors give limited evidence of this. In relation to the theoretical development the reader may feel that the treatment of accident prevention is rather inadequate.

The test of this type of concept, however, is whether it is fruitful in promoting progress, and anyone seriously interested in safety who is equipped with appropriate technological assistance should study this document.

There are many concepts of value to be found, for example, the categorizing of activities into production, prevention, and recovery phases; and the observation that recovery activities are associated with at least three times more accidents than other parts of the work cycle.

Examples are given of worker involvement in defining and implementing safe practices of work, and these are advanced as the most effective means of obtaining success.

In the discussion on reliability and experience, an important point for training methods is made, namely that operators learn by the diagnosis of malfunctions, and the larger the number of different situations that are encountered, the more effective is the experience acquired. This re-emphasizes the trial and error concept of learning and is related to problems of automation, process, and control.

This book will be heavy going for anyone but an ergonomist or specialist in process control, and its mathematical bias although essential may deter many. The lack of a concluding chapter gathering together the salient points is a serious omission.

For the industrial physician this work is of general interest but not essential reading, except for those with a direct responsibility for safety or ergonomics who are prepared to devote some time to the mathematics. To these it offers considerable possibilities of advancing their practice.

J. W. HILL

NOTICES

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology will convene its 1975 annual meeting 8–10 August 1975 at the Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri. Further information may be obtained from Dr. Walter J. Decker, Lt. Col., MSC, US Army Medical Laboratory, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas 78234.

XVIII International Congress on Occupational Health

The XVIII International Congress on Occupational Health will be held at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton, England from 14–19 September 1975. For all information relating to the Congress please write to: XVIII International Congress on Occupational Health, Conference Services Limited, 43 Charles Street, Mayfair, London W1X 7PB.

Institute of Sound and Vibration Research

A further course on Industrial Audiology and Hearing Conservation is being organized within the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research 23 to 26 September 1975. The course will be particularly suitable for industrial medical officers, occupational hygienists, senior occupational health nurses and others involved in audio-metry and hearing conservation programmes.

Further information may be obtained from: Mrs. O. G. Hyde, ISVR Conference Secretary, The University Southampton, SO9 5NH.

OMISSION

On page 298 of the October 1974 issue of the journal Dr. F. Whitwell's address was not given. This is Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool.