

NOTICES

Disability—One Year On. 1 October 1997. Edinburgh, Scotland.

By the time that this conference, organised by the Scottish Group of the Society of Occupational Medicine, opens, the Disability Discrimination Act will have been on the statute book for almost a year. It has been the biggest legislative item to effect people with disabilities and those who have dealings with them, either as providers of services or employers, since the Disabled Persons (Employment) Acts of 1944 and 1958. It has not been without controversy, and does not please everyone. None the less, to achieve the aims of the spirit of the act—a fair crack of the whip for those with disabilities—people have to work together and do something. People with disabilities have a hard time—we all know that—but attenders at this meeting will leave with positive ideas on how to successfully integrate people with disabilities into the workplace. In association with the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh, and the Scottish Occupational Health Nurses Forum, the Group offers this event, beginning at about 10 am, lasting all day, and with exhibition. Contact: Dr C J Kalman, Occupational Health Department, Scottish Nuclear PLC, East Kilbride, Scotland. Tel 013552 62000.

Charting the Way Ahead for Health at Work. 29 September 1997. London.

The Royal College of Physicians, London. This conference, organised by the British Occupational Health Research Foundation and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, has three sessions titled:

- Setting the scene;
- Priorities for the future;
- Research in progress and in prospect.

Further information from: British Occupational Health Research Foundation, 9 Millbank, London SW1P 3JF. Tel: 0171-798 5869; 0171-798 5894.

BOOK REVIEW

Book review editor: R L Maynard

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Modern Industrial Hygiene, Vol 1.

Author: JIMMY L PERKINS. (Pp 840; price £37.50) 1997. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold. ISBN: 0-442-02105-4.

This is the first of four books covering the field of industrial hygiene. Two volumes deal with chemical hazards, and one each with physical and biological hazards. There is no specific volume for psychosocial hazards, and perhaps this is an area of occupational health that lies outside the scope of modern industrial hygiene. Volume 1 focuses on recognition and evaluation of chemical hazards; control is left to the second volume. The author devotes the first two chapters to discussing what is an industrial hygienist and how industrial hygiene fits into occupational health, with a historical account of the development of the discipline. The layout is very comprehensive, and my impression is that considerable effort has gone into producing what ought to be a standard reference book for occupational health professionals.

In the material provided, there is a bias towards United States legislation, organisations, and approach (readers can refer to the book for a description of acronyms such as OSHA, TOSCA, NIOSH, etc). The author rightly explains the difficulty in keeping up with changes in the United States, let alone trying to deal with the situation in other countries. There is a nod in the direction of

non-United States references in the sources of information section. The *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* is mentioned, but as this is a 1997 book, it should rightly be *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. The Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Health is probably the *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health*. These niggles aside, the book is rich with facts and well illustrated with photographs of hygiene equipment—more than enough to aid postgraduate occupational health students in their revision for their professional exams. There are good descriptions of pumps, detector tubes, direct reading instruments, and other industrial hygiene devices, complete with how they should be calibrated and used, right down to the details of what kind of charcoal is used for absorbing vapours. There is a useful list of 11 questions to ask when choosing a laboratory for analysing industrial hygiene samples. Many of these questions would apply to use of a laboratory for analysing other samples such as microbiological analysis or biological monitoring samples. Another useful and interesting chapter describes common industrial processes and exposure to chemical hazards from these processes. This chapter includes electroplating, machining, plastics processing, and welding, to name a few examples. My personal favourite is the series of study questions at the end of each chapter. Some of them are difficult, but answers are provided at the end of the book. If you know the difference between Henry's law, Graham's law, Raoult's law, Fick's law, and Stokes' law, then maybe you should have written the book. These are all covered in this first volume.

My verdict: a most useful book on industrial hygiene. If this volume is anything to go by, the other three should be just as informative and enjoyable.

TAR-CHING AW

CORRECTION

Respiratory health effects of opencast coalmining: a cross sectional study of current workers by RG LOVE, BG MILLER, SK GROAT, S HAGEN, HA COWIE, PP JOHNSTON, PA HUTCHISON, CA SOUTAR (1997;54:416-23).

Page 421, The first sentence of the second paragraph of the section *Radiological abnormalities* should read: The logistic regression coefficient for years in preproduction work, adjusted for age, smoking, age-smoking interaction, and site effects, was estimated at 0.0796 (SE 0.0203); not 0.796 (SE 0.0203).