

published version, and there is virtually no reference to the important subject of nuclear energy as a source of power for industry, for transportation, or eventually for the whole community. Nevertheless, this book should be in the possession of industrial medical officers directly concerned with radioactive substances, and could well be seen by others wishing to keep abreast of modern developments in industrial methods and attendant occupational health problems. E. F. EDSON

**Notes on the Diagnosis of Occupational Diseases Prescribed under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act, 1946.** From the Ministry of National Insurance. 1950. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office. Pp. 52. Price 1s. 6d.

This is an interesting and modest little book in which every doctor will find much valuable information. It has no pretensions to being exhaustive, but within its scope of the scheduled occupational diseases it is unique. It suffers from the evils and advantages of condensation, and also unavoidably from the method of presentation which, as it must discuss each individual disease separately, does not allow of a grouping of these diseases. Nor does it stress the relative importance of the diseases described. In its original form it was designed to give guidance to those medical practitioners who were asked by the Ministry of National Insurance to examine and report on claimants to benefit under the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act. Now that it has been made available to a wider public it might have been more successfully adapted. Such phrases, for example, as "a claimant for benefit in respect of this disease will be referred to an ophthalmologist for examination" could easily have been omitted without impairing the value of the book. Although there is evidence of correction from the first edition, it is unfortunate that certain mis-spellings have been perpetuated.

Apart from such criticisms, the book shows ample evidence of an intimate knowledge of industry on the part of the author or authors, and certain subjects—notably those on "poisoning by a nitro or amido derivative of benzene or of a homologue of benzene" and "nitrous fumes", are treated more efficiently than in many textbooks. This book is undoubtedly worth having. R. MURRAY

**Microdiffusion Analysis and Volumetric Error.** By Edward J. Conway. 1951. London: Crosby Lockwood and Sons, Ltd. 3rd edit., revised. 66 plates. Pp. 391. Price 25s.

The number of publications dealing with analytical problems, like the literature in other fields of science, is increasing at a phenomenal rate. A considerable proportion of journals, and particularly biochemical journals, is devoted to a description of methods, many which have not been adequately tried out. It is, therefore, most helpful and perhaps should be considered essential that any textbook on analytical methods should not only bring newer methods to the notice of the reader, but should also carry the author's guarantee that these methods work. The book under review fulfils this

requirement admirably; the techniques have been well tried out and are described with all the details necessary for the successful use of the particular method. The theoretical aspects of microdiffusion techniques are thoroughly dealt with, thus enabling the research worker, wishing to develop a method, to obtain the necessary theoretical background. In a few instances one feels the detail is rather overdone. For instance, on page 154, it is not necessary to give in detail two methods for the preparation of urease. On pages 105-6 two methods for the determination of ammonia using the phenate-hypochlorite reagent are given with little indication which is the more reliable. The chapter on colorimetry might well have been omitted; there are many books on this subject.

An aspect of microdiffusion which does not appear to have been sufficiently emphasized is the separation of substances from complex biological material. The reviewer was recently made aware of the possibilities of this technique when it was found possible to determine dimethylamine in liver homogenate after four hours incubation; this had proved almost impossible when using conventional protein precipitation techniques.

The section on volumetric error is a model of the way in which errors in analytical practice can and should be sorted out.

This book should be available in every biochemical laboratory; for the routine pathological laboratory, methods are described which will allow a reliable and rapid routine to be worked out; for the research worker, microdiffusion is one more tool to help to solve his own peculiar problems. W. N. ALDRIDGE

**The Day Hospital—An Experiment in Social Psychiatry and Syntho-Analytic Psychotherapy.** By Joshua Bierer. 1951. London: H. K. Lewis & Co. Pp. 56. Price 6s.

Many industrial medical officers must have felt the need for some such unit as that described here, where a patient could not only receive the benefits of expert psychiatric consultation, but also many of the amenities of a well-equipped mental hospital without the additional complications of segregation from the patient's domestic, working and social milieu. This whole field is still relatively new and such an experiment must be welcomed.

The "Social Psychotherapy Centre" is included in the North West Metropolitan Region of the National Health Service, and its aim is to provide an answer to the limitations of the existing treatment centres for psychiatry whether they are out-patient departments or hospitals. The methods of treatment available include individual and group psychotherapy; physical, occupational and recreational therapy; psychodrama, art and social club therapy. Patients dealt with have been psychotic (discharged from mental hospital, leucotomised), neurotic (unable to work, acute forms of neurosis, requiring re-adaptation and after-treatment), and delinquent (on probation, discharged prisoners requiring psychotherapy). Case histories illustrating all these categories are given and make interesting reading.

Having dealt with practice, the author goes on to propound rather speculative theories. He considers