book represents the views of those who ignore the phenomena of their experience in order to construct a world in which the functions of the cell are personified and microbes become the instruments of Providence. A list of "useful prescriptions" supplies the meretricious perfume unhappily *de rigueur* in writings addressed to the general practitioner.

This little book cannot fail to entertain, and it should help to revive interest in an obscure and unrewarding subject. The Editor is to be congratulated not only on his enterprise but on his very real success in integrating the views of so many talented personalities.

J. H. TWISTON DAVIES

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By R. Y. Keers and B. G. Rigden; Foreword by F. H. Young. Third edition. (Pp. 324; 150 figures. 24s.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1953.

Both the popularity of this little book and recent advances in treatment have necessitated three editions in eight years. It is well produced but the films suffer the inevitable consequences of reduction in size so that minimal lesions are difficult to see.

It is written easily and clearly with sufficient historical review to whet the appetite without overburdening the student. The chapter on after-care is well done and outlines the help available from the various social services. Perhaps the weakest part of the book is in the statistics on tuberculin testing since neither the methods nor the strengths of tuberculin used are quoted. There also appears to be a discrepancy between the two authors concerning race and tuberculosis, and the important findings of the Prophit Survey are not quoted. Despite these imperfections this book will give the student a thorough picture of an individual with this disease and be of interest and importance to practitioners in the management of their early cases and give them valuable guidance on after care.

J. P. W. HUGHES

Coal Tar and Cutaneous Carcinogenesis in Industry. By Frank C. Combes. (Pp. 76; 25 illustrations. 20s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1954.

This short monograph of 60 pages provides a summary of information relative to the problem of skin cancer. Greatest emphasis is placed upon cancer following exposure to various tars, and the medical man will find the section on the production methods and chemical nature of tars of interest. A disproportionate amount of space, however (about one-sixth of the monograph), is devoted to a discussion of the photodynamic action of light and its relationship to industrial skin cancer.

The author summarizes the early changes produced by exposure to tar as tar burns, tar erythemas ("smarts"), allergic eczematous dermatitis (which he rightly considers as rare), folliculitis, cysts, and melanosis. In discussing the late effects he takes the liberty of redefining the "shagreen" skin of Prosser White as an omnibus title for "alteration in the skin of individuals exposed for long periods to tar and pitch".

The subject of petroleum cancer and dermatitis

from oils is dealt with in some four pages of text which contain the astounding statement that "the carcinogenic properties of crude petroleum and the heavy petroleum oils depend upon their ability to cause follicular hyperkeratoses and acneiform lesions in the same fashion as pitch and carbon".

The final section on the control of tar cancer is excellent, and includes suggestions for the education and protection of the worker, plant protection, and other general measures.

Numerous references are supplied and these include most of the key references for any person who desires to study the subject. There is, however, no attempt to give guidance as to their relative usefulness. No mention is made in the text of several of the authors' names in the bibliography; for example, the important work of S. A. Henry is not referred to in the text, and, as judged by the bibliography, the author does not appear to be aware of any publications of this worker later than 1937.

C. N. D. CRUICKSHANK

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

Life and Other Contingencies. By P. F. Hooker and L. H. Longley-Cook. (Pp. 312. 22s. 6d.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1953.

Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, Vol. LXXIII, Session 1953. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1953.

Proceedings of First Congress 1953 of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy. (Pp. 91.) London: The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. 1953.

Lehrbuch der Arbeitshygiene: Vol. I—Allgemeine Physiologie und Hygiene der Arbeit. By Franz Koelsch. (Pp. vii + 426. DM. 49.—) Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke Verlag. 1954.

Occupational Health and Safety. By Gerald Machanik. (Pp. 39.) Pretoria, S.A.: Workmen's Compensation Commissioner. 1954.

First Report of the Expert Committee on Poliomyelitis. W.H.O. Technical Report Series No. 81. (Pp. 69. 3s. 6d.) London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1954.

Pneumoconiosis Abstracts, Vol. II—1939–1950. (Pp. 518. 80s.) London: Sir Isaac Pitman. 1954.

Mental Health and Human Relations in Industry. Edited by Thomas M. Ling, with Foreword by The Rt. Hon. Lord Horder. (Pp. xvi + 268; 11 figures. 21s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1954.

Einrichtung und Arbeitsweise einer Blutbank. By W. Heim and P. Dahr. (Pp. 328; 36 figures. DM. 33.—) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1954.

Textbook of Medicine, 11th ed. Edited by Sir John Conybeare and W. H. Mann. (Pp. xvi + 905; 40 figures, 31 x-ray plates. 37s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. and S. Livingstone. 1954.