here they appropriately follow the paper on physical environment. There is surprisingly no reference to lighting and colour in factories.

One might have expected the special prominence given to medico-legal aspects to which an entire chapter is devoted and there are repeated references throughout the book to the growing practice of litigation. Initial medical examinations, medical records, and even treatment may have legal implications at a later date, and every accident involves a probable claim for compensation. One cannot help sympathizing with the contributor who describes at length the necessary qualities of a good medical witness and with our professional colleagues in America who are apparently so often involved in these disputes.

Two unusual papers on the problem of anxiety states among employees offer methods of treatment that will seem strangely unorthodox to the English mind. They recommend in general what is described as effective discipline which condemns "a policy of humoring and appeasement . . . or rearranging the external environment to suit his (the patient's) fancied needs". This seems to imply a firm hand by supervisor and doctor working conjointly, a policy which will apparently produce better results than other forms of therapy and in particular "preoccupation with long histories and diagnostic minutiae".

The book has some surprising omissions and there is little or no information, for example, on the pneumoconioses, the occupational traumatic, infective and malignant diseases, or the health of young persons and the elderly. Several papers will seem almost rudimentary to industrial medical officers but the majority compensate for their lack of detail with bibliographies which in a few instances are quite impressive. The book is nevertheless a notable achievement by the staff of one firm although it is obviously intended more especially for the benefit of safety engineers and chemists. The general picture of the work of a medical service in a large industrial enterprise of international repute is well depicted and should be studied by everyone concerned with occupational health. The opinions of our American colleagues are stimulating and provide food for thought, however unpalatable in some respects to us in Great Britain.

D. KENWIN HARRIS

The Casualty Department. By T. G. Lowden. (Pp. viii + 278; illustrated. 37s. 6d.) London and Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone. 1955.

Although Mr. Lowden has written his book primarily for the guidance of young men and women taking up casualty work, it can also be read with profit by those responsible for the treatment of the injured in industry. The clinical features of the common conditions likely to be met with in a casualty department are well described and the treatment advised is generally in accordance with accepted modern thought, but it is surely questionable whether many people suffering from acute tenosynovitis are still subjected to absolute fixation of the limb and a prohibition on work for three weeks. Nevertheless, the author's recommendations are in most

respects very sound and it is greatly to be hoped that heed will be taken of what he has to say about the proper use of penicillin and other antibiotics.

Mr. Lowden obviously knows his working men, for after describing the classical treatment for sprained finger and mallet finger he admits that they do not usually find it acceptable.

He lays stress on simplicity as the keynote to restoration of function and quite rightly considers that "repeated function of the injured member in ways it is used to does more to restore ability than twice as much organized exercise". But, he does not overlook the importance of good treatment from the outset and is strongly of the opinion that the best way of avoiding compensation neurosis is "to get the patients well of their organic conditions swiftly and effectively: to maintain an atmosphere of optimism and efficiency: to establish a reputation for rapid recovery and good results—to be good at the job. If everyone gets better in a few days no one has time to become neurotic". In fact the perfect picture of the well run works surgery!

A deep understanding of the many problems which arise in dealing with industrial injuries and of the importance of a right approach to the patient runs right through this book and sets a pattern which would save many thousands of man/hours every year if it were followed by all accident surgeons. Attention is drawn to the importance of maintaining close touch with industrial health departments, and the help that may be obtained by drawing on the experience of their medical officers is emphasized. Special praise is given to the arrangements made by the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers and used by its member firms.

The organization of a casualty department is described fully and the legal aspects are also dealt with in considerable detail.

This book is well produced, well illustrated, and most readable: it should be in the hands of all industrial medical officers.

G. F. KEATINGE

The Halogenated Hydrocarbons; Toxicity and Potential Dangers. P.H.S. Pub. No. 414. By W. F. von Oettingen. (Pp. ix + 430; \$2.50 cents.) Washington: U.S. Govt. Printing Office. 1955.

In the field of toxicology Dr. von Oettingen is probably at least as well known for his literary compilations as for his experimental contributions. The present volume is cast in a characteristic mould calculated to arouse the admiration of the reader for the assiduity rather than for the imagination of the author. In just over 400 pages some account is given of about 320 compounds. For a majority little more than bare data on their physical and chemical properties is given. Nevertheless, the fact that no reference is made to work describing the biological properties of a compound may be taken as good evidence that no such publication yet exists. This seems to be a reasonable deduction from a study of the accounts of well known compounds. Here the author has combed the literature both of America and Europe with great care and also included references to works that must have a very limited circulation.

In a brief preface the author expresses the hope that the publication of this book may help to reduce the incidence of poisoning by those compounds which he discusses. To achieve this it would have been much improved if in each case he could have included a few lines of practical advice to the non-medical reader who might turn to the book to find out whether or not he should handle a particular compound with special care. For a book with such an aim the reader may perhaps be surprised to find that the largest section (42 pages) is devoted to D.D.T. which has never been regarded as presenting any serious industrial or user hazard, while a notorious poison like methyl bromide has only 14 pages. The next largest review is that on carbon tetrachloride, but this probably in part reflects the apparent fascination this compound holds for experimental pathologists studying liver damage.

This is essentially a reference book in which brief summaries of published work are strung together with little or no attempt to discuss the significance or importance of the observations in respect of the one to the other. This makes reading difficult. The difficulty is exacerbated by the repeated use of the same openings for paragraph after paragraph. The book lacks any imprint of the author's own views on the subjects he discusses so that it is difficult to believe that it will, as he hopes, "stimulate research on the many problems unanswered". No problems are defined and the reader is left to seek for himself the gaps in existing information, the filling of which would make a significant advance in knowledge. The few attempts made to discuss the comparative toxicity of some of the series of compounds described are little more than summaries of what has already been stated.

There are a great many minor spelling mistakes but none so striking as the rendering of trichloroacetic acid on pp. 209-210. The heading in the middle of page 203 is incorrect. The text in many places could have been condensed to table form where compounds about which little or nothing is known are described.

Despite the criticisms made above there is no doubt that this will remain an invaluable reference book. The author is to be thanked for the thoroughness with which he has compiled this book which is available at the very reasonable cost of \$2.50.

J. M. BARNES

Backache in Women. By E. Schleyer-Saunders. (Pp. 80; 6 figures. 7s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1955.

Much has been written in the medical press on the subject of backache in women—a complaint which many sufferers have accepted as an inevitable accompaniment of childbearing and the menopause, or, of later years, have been pleased to be labelled as another case of "slipped disc". This little book presents a classification of the causes of backache with their differential diagnosis, and suggests methods of prevention and treatment, though no great advance is claimed in the latter. Gynaecological, orthopaedic, and rheumatic groups are considered, and it is stated that 50% of all cases show some gynaecological pathology. Emphasis is laid on static

and postural faults as a causative factor in all groups whatever the underlying pathology and some useful and simple diagnostic procedures are described.

The book is clearly presented and easily readable and will be of particular interest to general practitioners. It will have little appeal to the industrial medical officer though it may serve once again to draw his attention to postural defects and strain, which frequently arise from inadequate seating accommodation at work, incorrect siting of machines and their operators, and inefficient methods of lifting and handling heavy packages.

A. LLOYD POTTER

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

The Invasive Adenomas of the Anterior Pituitary (Sherrington Lecture No. III). By Sir Geoffrey Jefferson. (Pp. 63; 24 figures. 5s.) The University Press of Liverpool. 1955.

Baillière's Handbook of First Aid and Bandaging, 4th ed. By A. D. Belibios, D. K. Mulvaney, and K. F. Armstrong. (Pp. xii + 464; 200 figures. 8s. 6d.) London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1955.

Vitamins in Theory and Practice. By L. J. Harris. (Pp. xxii + 366; 103 figures. 35s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1955.

The National Corporation for the Care of Old People. Seventh Annual Report for the Year Ended 30th September, 1954. (Pp. 40). London: Nuffield Lodge. 1955.

Klinische Electropathologie. Part I by S. Koeppen; Part II by F. Panse. (Pp. xii + 424; illustrated.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1955.

Report on the Health of the Royal Air Force and Women's Royal Air Force for the Year 1951. London: Air Publications and Forms Store.

Wiederherstellung der Lebenstüchtigkeit geschädigter Menschen. By H. Hoske. (Pp. xii + 217. DM. 16.-.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1955.

Central Mining—Rand Mines Group: Health Department. Report for the Year 1954. Johannesburg: Dr. A. J. Orenstein, Rand Mines Ltd. 1955.

Clinical Orthopaedics, Number Five. Edited by Anthony F. DePalma. (Pp. viii + 242; illustrated. Subscribers 40s. per copy; single copies 60s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1955.

Student Almoner. By Josephine Kamm. (Pp. 192. 7s. 6d.) London: Bodley Head. 1955.

Textbook of Occupational Therapy. By Eamon N. M. O'Sullivan. (Pp. x + 320. 21s.) London: H. K. Lewis. 1955.

Why Have Pain. By Molly Turner. (Pp. iii + 23; illustrated. 2s.) Shrewsbury: Wilding & Son. 1955.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition. Fourth Report. (Pp. 58. 3s. 6d.) London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1955.

Wiederbelebung. By H. Killian and A. Dönhardt. (Pp. viii + 321; 93 figures. DM. 24.-.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1955.