few months as the first, and often the last book, of reference. This review, therefore, is based not on reading the book but on using it.

E. KING

The Story of the Progress in Medicine. By C. F. V. Smout. (Pp. 168; illustrated; 30s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1964.

The writing of history has many purposes, such as tracing a line of thought or series of ideas, studying the effects of circumstances on persons or situations, or studying the influences of a person or a group on the times in which they lived. Some history can justly be an interesting story giving pleasure and food for thought to the reader.

This new addition to the accounts of the progress of medicine traces the story of medicine from the Creation to the National Health Service. Obviously it has to be selective, and this requires an underlying idea or warp thread to run through the book. It also requires courage, courage to cut persons, places or events right out if they do not fit in. A brief reference, or, worse, a series of brief references, breaks the narrative and contributes little. Thus, we are told of Sir Charles Bell:

'A great surgeon of this period was Sir Charles Bell (1774-1842), whose discoveries are rated next to Harvey's in importance. He confined his researches to the nervous system and carried considerably further some of Galen's original ideas.'

Industrial physicians will turn to the chapter on 'Victorian Medicine' and will be disappointed to find a number of misleading statements. Students of industrial medicine would be advised not to learn their history from these pages.

This book is well produced. It is profusely illustrated and is printed in clear type. Although in places the writing is a little stilted, there is a deal of interesting information. It is a handy little book which can be dipped into but should not be regarded as authoritative.

W. R. LEE

Vanadium: Toxicology and Biological Significance. By T. G. Faulkner Hudson. (Pp. 140; illustrated; no price stated.) Barking: Elsevier. 1964.

The existence of vanadium has been known since the early years of the nineteenth century, but it was not until 1869 that it was isolated in the metallic state. It has held the interest of chemists and metallurgists for a long time. Recently there has been a quickening and widening of interest in it, by biologists and pharmacologists, because of its presence in trace amounts in many plant and animal tissues, and by doctors and others engaged in preventive medicine because of its being increasingly encountered in industry. This book, telling the fascinating story of vanadium from the medical viewpoint, is therefore timely.

Although it cannot as yet be accepted as essential to plant and animal life, vanadium certainly profoundly influences several important processes, including the metabolism of sulphur and cholesterol. Its various

actions are described, and these include, for example, its effects on liver function, the lowering of the cystine content of the hair and nails, the depression of cholesterol synthesis, and mobilization of cholesterol deposits.

As regards toxicity, vanadium is definitely poisonous, although the alarming descriptions of its ill effects given by earlier writers are not completely justified. It has, when inhaled, a marked inflammatory action on the entire respiratory tract. A variety of acute and subacute lesions can be produced, but no fibrotic changes or specific chronic lesions are described in the lungs. By whatever route of administration, however, vanadium is toxic to the liver and kidneys.

The concluding five chapters, almost half of the book, deal with the industrial sources of vanadium, its application to industry, the occupations which carry a health risk, the clinical effects, and prevention. The author considers that the present accepted level of 0.5 mg./m.³ as the maximum permissible concentration of vanadium pentoxide is too high, and that it should be lowered, probably to 0.1 mg./m.³

This compact volume, like the others of the Elsevier Monographs of Industrial Toxic Agents, is excellently produced on fine quality paper and contains a good index. The author is medical adviser to the Imperial Smelting Corporation Ltd., and lecturer in Industrial Hygiene in the University of Bristol. He states that his intention to describe the toxicological aspects and to summarize our present knowledge of vanadium has led him to make excursions into various fields of study, such as botany, marine zoology, biochemistry, pharmacology, and metallurgy. The large number of references at the end of each chapter testifies to his diligence, and a helpful feature is the footnote on each right-hand page indicating where the appropriate references are to be found. The information is presented in an entirely palatable form, and one lays down the book with a pleasant feeling of having read something important and interesting, and with an appetite whetted for news of further advances in the uses and effects of vanadium.

A. DOIG

Particulate Clouds: Dusts, Smokes and Mists, 2nd ed. By H. L. Green and W. R. Lane. (Pp. 471 + xxii; 84s.) London: Spon. 1964.

The new edition of this standard introductory text on aerosols is enlarged by some 50 pages, and the number of references has increased by 37% to over 1,300. It is a valuable source of information and a good starting point for a search of the literature on any specific aspect of particle science.

About two-thirds of the book deals with the physics of aerosols, including sampling, and one-third with applied aspects among which is a 48-page chapter on health hazards. After a brief introduction to the pneumoconioses, inhalation of dust, and particle size, there are sections on maximum permissible concentration, sampling methods and measurement of surface area and mass of particles. Individual protection is reviewed, and an account is given of the testing of respirator filters. Radioactive particles, microbial aerosols, and tobacco smoke

are included in this chapter, which concludes with a short note on fire and explosion hazards.

Chapters follow on atmospheric pollution and natural aerosols, and the book concludes with some uses of particulate clouds. A page and a half is given to therapeutic uses, with an historical introduction and a description of Collison's apparatus, but there is little information about modern developments. References are given about aluminium therapy for silicosis.

Medical readers are likely to find this book most useful when they seek to understand the physical basis of the aerosol problems which now arise quite frequently in clinical and research work.

C. N. DAVIES

BOOKS RECEIVED

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

L'Hygiène et la Sécurité dans l'Emploi des Benzols. By A. Vallaud, V. Raymond, and P. Salmon. (Pp. 142; illustrated; price not stated.) Institut National de Sécurité. 1964.

Erwerbsarbeit in Sozialmedizinischer Sicht. By P. Hulsman. (Pp. 164; DM 19.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1964.

Proceedings of World Forum on Syphilis and Other Treponematoses. (Pp. 521; \$4.) U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. 1962.

A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Diagnosis. By R. D. Eastham and B. R. Pollard. (Pp. 252; 18s. 6d.) London: John Wright. 1964.

Medical Surveys and Clinical Trials. 2nd edition. Edited by L. J. Wilts. (Pp. 367; illustrated; 42s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1964.

The Halogenated Hydrocarbons of Industrial and Toxicological Importance. By W. F. Van Oettingen. (Pp. 300; 60s.) London: Elsevier. 1964.

A Guide to Respiratory Protection. (Pp. 19; illustrated; price not stated.) Sydney: N.S.W. Department of Public Health. 1964.

Medical Service and Medical Research Annual Report, 1963. (Pp. 45; price not stated.) London: National Coal Board. 1964.

Preventive Medicine in World War II, Volume VII. Communicable Diseases. (Pp. 397; illustrated; price not stated.) Office of the Surgeon General. U.S. Army. 1964.

Occupational Health Guide to Safeguards Against Employee Sickness and Accident. By E. E. Lieber. (Pp. 192; illustrated; 45s.) London: Business Publications Ltd. 1964.

Copper and Peroxides in Radiobiology and Medicine.

By Jack S. Schubert. (Pp. 217; \$9.00) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1964.

The Quality of Labour and Economic Development in Certain Countries. By Walter Galenson and Graham Pyatt. (Pp. 89; illustrated; 10s. 6d.) Geneva: International Labour Office. 1964.

NOTICES

University of Manchester

A four-day course from September 13 to 16 inclusive, 1965, on Occupational Skin Problems has been organized jointly by the Departments of Occupational Health and Dermatology. It will be of interest to dermatologists, industrial medical officers, and examining medical practitioners. The number of places will be strictly limited. Fee £12. Applications should be made to the Secretary, Nuffield Department of Occupational Health, University of Manchester, Clinical Sciences Building, York Place, Manchester 13, from whom further particulars can be obtained.

Decompression Sickness in Civil Engineering Projects

With the support of a research grant from the Medical Research Council, a Central Registry of compressed air workers has been set up in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, in association with the Department of Surgery and the Nuffield Department of Industrial Health.

The object of this Registry is to keep medical records relating to work in compressed air in civil engineering projects, such as tunnels, caissons, etc. It is intended particularly to seek information on the natural history of aseptic necrosis of bone associated with work in compressed air (caisson disease of bone) and to collect: (1) radiographs of bone of compressed air workers so that the natural history of bone lesions can be followed; and (2) detailed medical histories of workers, including records of treatment for decompression sickness at different civil engineering contracts.

It would be of great assistance if relevant information, particularly advance notice of engineering projects involving work in compressed air, could be sent to:

Dr. P. D. Griffiths,

M.R.C. Decompression Sickness Registry,
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
10 Claremont Place,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

(Tel. No. Newcastle 24987),

by anyone concerned with such work, e.g., doctors, engineers, surveyors, etc. All information received (both medical and technical) will be treated confidentially.