Safety Training—A Guide for the Chemical Industry. (Pp. 30; 5 figs.) Obtainable from British Chemical Industry Safety Council, 15 Kingsway, London, W.C.2. 1965.

This booklet is the sixth in a series of publications by the British Chemical Industry Safety Council dealing with health hazards and safety in the industry. The principles of safe working were set out by the Council in a previous publication in 1964, *Safety and Management—A Guide for the Chemical Industry*. Adherence to these principles necessitates the training of managers, supervisors, workmen, and new entrants. In most present-day management training courses, occupational health and safety factors are not adequately studied, and it is to be hoped that this publication, in which management training is specially featured, will encourage the industry to organize its own internal courses.

The booklet now reviewed is a guide to means by which induction and training may be carried out. Training schemes are described and examples of recommended courses are given for companies able to organize them for themselves or in conjunction with neighbours. The courses run by academic, safety, and trade organizations and by the British Chemical Industry Safety Council itself are described. Induction training and training within industry (T.W.I. methods are recommended) are of particular value in the chemical industry.

The long list of selected references is a useful guide to further reading.

T. S. SCOTT

Public Health in the Nineteenth Century. By C. Fraser Brockington. (Pp. 287; 18 figs.; 42s.) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1965.

The four essays which comprise this book examine in detail the four attempts to set up a Central Board of Health for this country in the last century. The main driving force was the fear of epidemic disease with memories of the devastating outbreak of plague two centuries previously—and more recently in other European countries.

The advance of yellow fever across the Mediterranean to ravage southern Spain, killing 5,733 persons in Gibraltar on the way—the population was only 15,000—was the occasion for the establishment of the first Board of Health. When the threat receded the Board was soon disbanded and apparently left only its records to posterity.

With the threat of cholera from across the North Sea in 1831, a Central Board of Health was again set up, which Board, like its predecessor, had the President and some of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians as its medical members. Within a matter of months they

were overtaken by events and the threat had become the reality. A new Central Board of Health was constituted, able to take on a new tempo and 'composed predominantly of persons who had first-hand information of the tasks in hand'. Local boards were set up which dealt with the outbreak as it advanced across the country. But by 1834 the epidemic had passed and the organization, having fulfilled its function, closed down.

What has all this to do with industrial medicine in the second half of the 20th century? Following Chadwick's report on the 'Sanitary Conditions of the Working Population' in 1842 came the Public Health Act of 1848. This gave an administrative framework and legal backing to the appointment of Officers of Health. Shades of contemporary moves toward a comprehensive Occupational Health Service? What happened to the earlier Officers of Health? Professor Brockington's third essay will make interesting reading to anyone concerned about the setting up of a statutory service in the field of preventive medicine. Of course circumstances are different, but it may be useful and important to know of the difficulties and disappointments met by our forefathers.

The fourth and last essay recounts the researches carried out, in almost academic detachment, by the able group under the brilliant leadership of Sir John Simon. This 'brilliant interlude' lasted from 1858 until 1871, when the Board of Health was absorbed into the Local Government Board.

This book is well written and clearly printed. It illustrates by these four episodes stages in the development of preventive medicine in the 19th century. No attempt is made to relate these to the economic, political or social factors which were affecting events at the time. However, the tale is well and authoritatively told and provides interesting reading and invaluable reference for a modest two guineas.

W. R. LEE

NOTICE

International Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine

The Third International Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine will be held in Paris from September 15 to 18, 1966, at the Faculty of Medicine. It will have as its theme 'The Psychosomatic Approach to Fatigue'. For further information regarding the Congress contact Professeur P. Aboulker, Secretary General, Third International Congress of Psychosomatic Medicine, Hôpital Cochin, 27 rue du Faubourg-Saint-Jacques, Paris 14.