is fully restored in the short but lucid account by Acheson of his well-known work on record linkage, and in the final chapter of part 1 on the evaluation of medical care. The general impact of this part of the book is to make me feel that 'automated multiphasic screening' is ripe only for a 'study demonstration area' and not for widespread use.

In part 2, specific screening procedures are discussed for diabetes mellitus (Keen), urinary infection (Brumfitt and Reeves), breast cancer, glaucoma, and liability to 'coronary heart-disease'. Fidler, Boyes, and Worth, of Vancouver, discuss screening for malignant disease, including the British Columbia programme of cervical cytology. Personally, I find a summation of independently validated screening procedures a more convincing goal than the attempts at the diagnostic equivalent of a *therapia magna*.

In the third part, Kaprio foretells a cautious W.H.O. interest in screening. Wood sees a role for screening procedures (specific and not general) in the developing countries, and he gives an interesting graph of 'the money value of the life of a man', which will stir up controversy but nevertheless seems to me quite a proper component of any realistic discussion on the cost-effectiveness of medical procedures. Cochrane and Ellwood wind up with a *douche of sceptis scientifica*, which disposes of some claims which the advocates of screening have not made.

This is a valuable book, in that it makes a real attempt to treat the issues fairly. They are not simple, and it is clear that the enthusiasm of pioneers (without which nothing would get done) must be the focus of some such critical appraisal as Butterfield refers to in his Foreword. Nevertheless Butterfield regards screening as 'the next challenge to medicine'; and this book helps the uncommitted at any rate to understand the nature and quality of what may lie ahead of us.

D. A. K. BLACK

The Training of Safety Officers. (Pp. 16; 5s.) Institution of Industrial Safety Officers, 23 Queen Square, London, W.C.1. 1969.

A single case of 'asymptomatic lead poisoning' warrants special mention in an official report. Cases of lead poisoning are rare. To guard against such cases industry employs medical and hygiene staff, and for the latter a 'competent' hygienist may soon be defined as a person with a degree in science and five years' practice who can also satisfy an examining board.

An accident at work may well kill or cripple. There are many such accidents. To guard against accidents, industry too often uses 'Safety Officers' who, however honest and willing, are limited in their outlook, untrained for their work, and who are given only very limited authority.

Midway is the acute or sub-acute 'toxic episode' or 'gassing'. Is sub-acute lead poisoning following the use of an oxyacetylene torch on lead-painted steel an 'accident' to be prevented by a safety officer before it happens or a 'health problem' to be investigated by a team of 'experts'?

The Training of Safety Officers by the Education and Training Committee of the Institution of Industrial

Safety Officers is an important step in the correction of this anomalous position. It gives a basic philosophy, a description of the duties of a safety officer, and the types of training and knowledge he should have to proceed to a professional qualification. These are given in detail in four appendices, the third of which contains a detailed training syllabus which may well surprise those who choose their safety officers on the redundant foreman principle.

In publishing this booklet, the Institution has in mind the production of the type of safety officer only too infrequently encountered in industry – the fully competent, authoritative man. Possibly the only jarring note is the suggestion that recruits be drawn from 'technical staff or technicians'. While this phrase, in context, is conciliatory to the 'craftsman' who may be competent by reason of personality and experience – and some are – it implies a non-commissioned status. The job to be done is such that there can be no upper limit for basic qualification. The duties of the safety officer must surely place the competent qualified man in a relatively senior industrial position. More of the right men, with appropriate direct authority, may well contain our industrial accident rate, as our industrial disease rate has been contained by a similar approach. This booklet gives guidance on producing such men, and the guide should be followed.

E. KING

Office Automation in Social Perspective. By H. A. Rhee. (Pp. 242; 45s.) Oxford: Basil Blackwell and Mott. 1968.

Few of us have not suffered some inconvenience during the conversion of our national fuel industries to electronic data processing (E.D.P.). It is apparent that the process of change can put even the largest organization badly out of gear. In addition, workers within these bodies find their work roles and functions subject to rapid and dramatic changes. The author aims at an analysis of this highly complex situation.

The text is arranged in five major sections, dealing with the history of office automation, its impact on the structure of the office and the individuals working there, and its effect on employment and future concepts of 'work'. The two sections on the effect of E.D.P. on office structure and its impact on the individual are the most effective. In the former, reasons for introduction (or rejection) of E.D.P. are analysed, and the problems of integration of new systems into already functional decision-making and data-processing entities are discussed. In the latter, the changes in job structure and attitudes to work consequent on the introduction of E.D.P. are outlined.

The book is primarily a sociological text, and falls short in factual material. The exposition might have benefited by continual reference to one or two major case studies. A little technical discussion at the outset would have helped those who do not yet understand exactly what computers do. Although these shortcomings may lessen its attractions as a guide to management, the book will be of interest to the general reader and the sociologist.

PETER HAMILTON