extension of rules proposed by Mr. Woolf in his final chapter. It would, in your reviewer's opinion, merely have produced a flood of out-of-date actions to test the reactions of defendants who might not have been told the rules of the game either.

P. W. H. REVINGTON

Documentation of MAC in Czechoslovakia. (Pp. 167; no price stated.) Prepared by Czechoslovak Committee of MAC. Praha 10, Ustav Hygieny, Práce Achorob 2 Porolani. Chairman: J. Teisinger. June 1969.

The publication lists (3 pages) and documents (167 pages) 77 substances commonly used in industry and gives the mean MAC (mean concentration for whole shift, mg/m³ and ppm) and peak MAC (short-term peak which is permitted for such a short period as not to affect substantially the mean for the whole shift). The MAC has been viewed previously as a ceiling value which is no longer acceptable on the basis of technical, economic, and medical aspects.

The documentation includes formulae and properties, concentration, and severity of effect and lists the MAC proposed by eight countries including the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Great Britain and the United States of America (1955–1967). The Committee make recommendations on the basis of the references presented. In many cases this is more stringent than the equivalent American TLV (dated 1967 but precise source not given). The comparison of MACs is of practical interest and the intent of the authors is creditable since it represents an alternative to the *prima facie* acceptance of MACs formulated by other nations.

M. K. B. MOLYNEUX

The Teaching of Public Health in Europe. By J. D. Cottrell. In collaboration with B. Kesić and R. Senault. (Pp. 246; 42s.) Geneva: W.H.O. Monograph Series No. 58. 1969.

'In 1957 W.H.O. published a monograph on *The Teaching of Hygiene and Public Health in Europe*. In view of the many changes that have since taken place, the time is now ripe for a new publication that brings up to date the facts reported by Grundy and Mackintosh.'

This opening sentence of the preface explains the reason for the new publication. An attempt has been made to complement rather than duplicate previous work. Changes are reviewed and current trends in the teaching of this subject surveyed. That the foreword has been written by Dr. Grundy, one of the previous authors, is particularly fortunate. He states (page 9) that the main purpose of public health studies in the medical curriculum should be 'to improve the competence of doctors in clinical work and health care practice . . . not the presentation of technical and specialist aspects of hygiene and community health care'. He believes that there is a widespread conviction that the whole undergraduate curriculum should be permeated by a preventive and social outlook. Twenty-seven countries are included in this review. The U.S.S.R. and other socialist countries in

Eastern Europe were not among the 19 surveyed in the earlier edition. Information about each country is laid out systematically, the national system of health services, general medical education – the criteria of selection of medical students is usually briefly mentioned – and finally a survey of the teaching in public health available to undergraduate and postgraduate students is reviewed. In spite of this consistent classification I found it difficult to compare the teaching given in one country with that in another. This is due to confusion between, and difficulty in interpreting, the meaning of the terms used. The teaching given on occupational medicine topics may be described under a wide variety of headings. For example, in Finland (page 99) as in other Scandinavian countries, 'considerable emphasis is given to hygiene; the term mainly covers environmental hygiene, but may include occupational diseases and epidemiology'. Each country divides the amount of teaching between undergraduates and postgraduates differently. The familiar pattern in western countries is for public health teaching in depth to be a postgraduate specialty. However, in the U.S.S.R. (pages 204/6/7) the picture is different. Specialization starts at the undergraduate level '818 hours are devoted to public health subjects . . . from the third year onwards students specialize in hygiene . . . graduates from these faculties are physicians whose life-work lies within the public health services . . .' Perhaps this will also be the future pattern in the western world.

All the information included has been collected personally by the authors and the text of each section was sent to the governments concerned for comment and correction. This admirable and informative book not only makes fascinating reading, but its value, as an authoritative reference book for all those interested in and responsible for organizing teaching courses for undergraduates and postgraduates, will be great.

S. GAUVAIN

First Australian Pneumoconiosis Conference. Edited by G. Major. (Pp. X and 573; illustrated; \$10 inc. postage.) Copies available from the Executive Secretary, First Australian Pneumoconiosis Conference, c/o Joint Coal Board, Box 3842, G.P.O. Sydney 2001.

The conference on airborne dust in industry, its measurement, control, and effects on health was held in Sydney in February 1968 and has been well reported in this volume. The proceedings cover 26 separate papers and seven discussion periods with a final 'Open Forum'.

There is a realistic approach in many of the articles and some straight speaking in the discussions. The first half of the book is largely concerned with dust sampling and control in mines in Australia, South Africa, and the United States of America and includes a good 37-page review of instrumentation and standards backed up by a comprehensive list of 95 references which should be helpful to those concerned with this aspect. Dust problems in coal, gold, asbestos, and metalliferous mining, tunnelling and excavation work, quarries, factories, and foundries are all discussed.

The essential medical aspects are satisfactorily dealt with in a good general introductory talk on the pneumo-