addition to the literature, its monographs are useful, concise and readable, and seem to reflect with reasonable accuracy the state of knowledge for that compound – although those producing such evaluations must expect that their views are at least open to challenge. Those who are seeking some authoritative source of total knowledge and finality on safe residues of pesticides will not find it here, or indeed anywhere else as yet. We seem to be in the position that there is plenty of scientific data (at a conservative estimate these 32 monographs represent at least £10 million research costs to provide the facts), but no agreement on exactly how they should be utilized in evaluating hazards or recommending tolerances for international trade in foodstuffs, or even nationally. Almost every monograph ends with a significant list of more information believed by the experts to be required or desirable for an improved evaluation of hazard and tolerances; one wonders how a cost/benefit assessment would report on such recommendations for further relatively non-productive work.

It is also worrying to see that almost all the pesticides discussed in this book have been used commercially for 10 or more years, many of them being now in diminishing use due to more recent introductions. There would be logic in spending part of this expert effort in considering introductory residue tolerances for promising chemicals at an earlier stage in their commercial history, so that eventually the experts manage to catch up with the chemical industry.

Taking a deliberately broad view, this latest F.A.O./W.H.O. publication demonstrates very well that a great deal of attention has been and is being given to the pesticide residue problem by international agencies, by Governments and by chemical firms (who provide most of the data). It also makes clear what a complex subject the official experts have to deal with, not merely from the scientific aspects, but also because their recommendations have to be both acceptable to and practicable for individual Governments, their administrators, agriculturalists and chemical industries. It is possible that our present attitudes towards pesticide residues are restrictively apprehensive or cautious; but, despite everything, such F.A.O./W.H.O. recommendations can help make sure that residues in imported food are kept within safe, very safe, levels, and that progress with pesticides is not retarded by lack of guidance.

E. F. EDSON

Occupational and Medicative Hazards in Ophthalmology. Edited by J. Francois. (Pp. xvi + 722; 211 figs; 64 tables; 300s.) Basel and New York: Karger. 1969.

Trauma to the eye and surrounding structures presents a problem which has taxed the skill of ophthalmologists for generations past and is likely to increase with the increasing mechanization of our society. Also, commonly used drugs which, until a decade ago, were thought to

have no ocular side-effects have since been recognized as causing marked visual impairment. With these considerations in mind, this volume will be welcomed by general physicians and surgeons as well as ophthalmologists.

This book contains the complete proceedings of the Third Congress of the European Society of Ophthalmology, which was held in Amsterdam in 1968. Experts from all parts of the world gathered to consider physical, chemical and radiational trauma to the eye, and ocular complications of certain drugs and occupational intoxications. The prevention, immediate management and treatment of short-term and long-term complications have been discussed.

The volume is divided into two sections with the main lectures constituting the first half followed by so-called 'Free Papers' in which some very interesting aspects of trauma and toxicology have been expounded. The papers were delivered in English, French or German. There are resumés in all three languages at the end of the main papers, but unfortunately this three-language summary is not given at the end of the 'Free Papers' which constitutes the bulk of the book.

The views of many of the authors are well known; however, the repetition of them only serves to emphasize their importance. Much of the experimental work is new. The effect of visual acuity, colour vision, visual fatigue and drugs on occupational and road-traffic accidents has been discussed at length, even including a paper on the effects of smog. Perhaps not everyone would agree with Boberg-Ans that a local anaesthetic is sufficient when repairing injured eyes in patients over 12 years of age. The majority of ophthalmologists in Great Britain at least would prefer to give a general anaesthetic in these situations. Obviously one must expect certain injuries to be a constant hazard in particular occupations, but it is surprising that a supposedly innocent occupation such as agriculture can present so many ocular injuries. At a time when there is so much world-wide student, industrial and political unrest, Rose of California has produced an important paper on the dangers of Mace, a pocket spray container of tear gas. While applauding the hopes of Crews that the study of adverse drug reactions should produce safer drugs, Meier-Ruge, quoting Kushinsky, points out that drugs which show no side-effects should be viewed with caution unless they produce no main effects. Tengroth gives an apt warning about our ignorance of the biological effects of laser radiation and goes on to say that its use cannot be defended in surgery. Perhaps this final comment that 'until further knowledge is gained, the laser should be looked upon as a potentially hazardous instrument', should be a lesson for us all when we prescribe any drug, new and old, or use any recently described methods.

Professor Francois is to be congratulated on editing an excellent book which can be recommended without reservation.

M. K. WANG