Thermal Comfort and Moderate Heat Stress. Proceedings of CIB Commission W45 (Human requirements) Symposium Building Research Station, 13-15 Sept. 1972. (Pp. 383; illustrated; £3.25.) London: HMSO. 1974.

The title of this publication is somewhat misleading as it is not apparent that the moderate heat stress relates to the high internal temperatures within buildings of all types, due to either summer conditions or overheating by space-heating plants in winter. Its publication is therefore timely, because of the increase in frequency of buildings overheating, due to the fashion of highly glazed buildings.

It contains some 20 papers, given at a conference in 1972, organized by the CIB at the Building Research Establishment. It brings together a wide range of papers on the subject of field studies of human reactions to the thermal environment, of laboratory studies concerned with directional radiation effects and the influence of thermal conditions on mental activity, the development of new instrumentation, comfort criteria and models. It is therefore a basic manual of recent information on the subject of thermal comfort and moderate heat stress, and as such should be carefully studied by architects in relation to the designing of the thermal performance of the building envelope and the establishment of performance standards for the thermal plant, by heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning engineers, and by any person concerned with the effect of the thermal environment on human performance.

The papers are concise and easily understood, well illustrated with graphs and diagrams, and fully referenced, including an edited version of the discussion. As it includes papers by such experts in the field as Fanger, Wyon, and Nevins it can be classed as essential reading for those involved in the design of thermal conditions within buildings.

A. C. HARDY

Handbook of Experimental Pharmacology. Uranium, Plutonium and Transplutonic Elements. Edited by H. C. Hodge, J. N. Stannard, and J. B. Hursh. (Pp. 995; 243 figs; DM 374, \$153.40.) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1973.

This volume of more than 900 pages is a compilation by 23 authors on the properties and biological effects of the high atomic number of radioactive elements, 92 and beyond. It is divided into three sections dealing with uranium, plutonium, and transplutonic elements respectively. In each section is given a detailed account of the important characteristics which concern the radiochemist, radiobiologist, safety worker, and medical officer.

Under the heading Uranium is given a survey of the effects, both as regards toxicity and radioactivity on the blood, cardiovascular system and liver, and the physical and chemical properties of uranium are fully discussed. Animal experiments on metabolism and toxicity are described. Data on man relating to ingestion, inhalation, occupational exposure as well as practical problems of protection and monitoring are given.

Under the heading Plutonium is given a detailed account of the chemical and physical properties of this element, its distribution in the human body, its excretion, and its dosimetry and methods of removal from the body. Inhalation problems, maximum permissible body burdens, and industrial hygiene are also discussed.

With regard to Transplutonium elements, a historical introduction is followed by an account of the chemical and physical properties of the 11 or so elements, their metabolic and biological properties as far as these are known, and the distribution of the nuclides in the human body. Deposition and retention in the kidney, liver, and other organs is described and excretion studies are given.

This book is a reference volume of outstanding thoroughness. It is documented by a large range of experimental data drawn from world-wide sources, and very many references are given on each branch of the subject. Its author index of 54 pages illustrates its comprehensiveness. To persons concerned with any aspect of these important radio-elements the book will prove an invaluable source of data.

F. T. FARMER

NOTICES

British Occupational Hygiene Society

The Fourth International Symposium on Inhaled Particles and Vapours will be held in Edinburgh, 22 to 26 September 1975.

The aim will again be to present the results of the latest research into the inhalation and retention of harmful (or therapeutic) dusts, mists, gases or vapours, the way they are handled by the body, and their effects; emphasis will be on basic mechanisms rather than on case histories or general toxicology. Authors should submit the title and an abstract of their proposed paper(s) as soon as possible (closing date 31 October 1974).

Further details may be obtained from Conference Services Ltd., 43 Charles Street, London W1X 7PB.

René Barthe International Prize 1975

The René Barthe Prize is awarded for a recent, original paper on a topic of occupational medicine or industrial hygiene. Personal papers by authors of any nationality may be submitted.

The award, amounting to 8 000 French francs, is made every three years on the occasion of the International Congress on Occupational Health, organized under the auspices of the Permanent Commission and International Association on Occupational Health. The next award will be made in September 1975 in conjunction with the 18th International Congress on Occupational Health to be held in Brighton, England.

Regulations concerning the award may be obtained from: Comité du Souvenir du Docteur René Barthe, 30 Avenue de Wagram, 75008 Paris, France; and articles for submission should be sent to this address no later than 15 December 1974.