PostScript

NOTICES

Occupational Health, Safety, and Environment Courses in 2002

NEBOSH General Certificate: run in partnership with ACT.

Led by Ian Coombes, Managing Director of ACT Associates Ltd, a health and safety consultancy.

Course B:

Week 1: 18–22 March

Week 2: 22–26 April

Tutorial: 23–24 May

Examinations: 7 June

Course C:

Week 1: 1–5 July

Week 2: 22–26 July

Tutorial: 19–20 August

Examinations: 6 September

Course D:

Week 1: 30 September–4 October

Week 2: 28 October–1 November

Tutorial: 25–26 November

Examinations: 6 December

NEBOSH Conversion Course: run in partnership with ACT.

Led by Ian Coombes, Managing Director of ACT Associates Ltd, a health and safety consultancy.

Course B:

Week 1: 9–13 September

Week 2: 7–11 October

Tutorial: 13–15 November

Examinations: 4–5 December

NEBOSH Part 1 Diploma: run in partnership with ACT.

Led by Ian Coombes, Managing Director of ACT Associates Ltd, a health and safety consultancy.

Course B:

Week 1: 15–19 July

Week 2: 12–16 August

Week 3: 16–20 September

Week 4: 14–18 October

Week 5: 13–15 November

Examinations: 4–5 December

All NEBOSH courses take place in the Midlands

NEBOSH Part 2 Diploma: run in association with ACT.

Led by Ian Coombes, Managing Director of ACT Associates Ltd, a health and safety consultancy.

Course B:

Week 1: 24–28 June

Week 2: 22–26 July

Week 3: 19–23 August

Week 4: 23–27 September

Week 5: 21–25 October

Tutorial: 20–22 November

Examinations: 4–5 December

NEBOSH Specialist Diploma in Environmental Management: run in partnership with HASTAM.

Led by Dr Steve Simmons, Consultant, HASTAM, Head of Waste Management, Powys County Council

Course B:

Week 1: 16–20 September

Week 2: 14–18 October

Week 3: 11–15 November

Revision and Exam: 4–5 December

All NEBOSH courses take place in the Midlands.

More information from: tel: 020 7420 3500; fax: 020 7420 3520; email: conferencesUS@butworths.com

Symposium on Immune and Neurological Effects of Work and Environment (INEWE). Taiyuan, Shanxi, China. April 21–24, 2002.

The symposium is supported by Shanxi Medical University, China and G D Annunzio University, Italy and arranged under the auspices of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH).

The organisation of this symposium is also supported by the Southeast University of China. This meeting is of great interest to the area of Shanxi, which is the most important region for production of coal, aluminium, steel, electricity, and heavy machinery in China, hence there is a large population potentially exposed to different occupational hazards.

The main topics of the congress sessions will be allergy, asthma, allergic contact dermatitis, immune and neurological effects of metals and xenobiotics, indoor air quality, and occupational stress and lifestyle. Free communications made up of oral presentations and poster discussions will constitute an important part of the meeting. The deadline for abstract submission is 28 February 2002.

For further information contact Nicola Verna on <http://www.unich.it/inewe/>

BOOK REVIEWS

Occupational Medicine

By J D Lomax, E Johannig. (Pp 253; US\$ 29.95.) 2001. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkin. ISBN 0 7817 2053 2

This small and low priced book is one of a series produced by the American Academy of Family Practitioners. As such it is aimed at the general practitioner (GP) and seeks to provide a short guide to the sort of occupational health problems GPs are likely to meet. The arrangement of material is excellent and the book is both well written and well illustrated. The section on skeletal muscular disorders is especially good. A useful review of the key anatomy is provided: this will be of use to all whose 2nd MB days are far away. A good deal of detail is provided in tabular form: did you know that fractures of the trapezium bone account for less than 5% of all carpal fractures? I confess I didn't! Diagnostic tests

are referred to by eponyms: Finkelstein's test, Tinel's sign, Phalen's manoeuvre are all to do with wrist and hand problems. Infectious diseases are well summarised and clear guidance on differential diagnosis and treatment is provided. Occupational lung diseases are treated briefly; not much more is possible in a short book, but a good bibliography including key United Kingdom publications is provided. Interestingly there is a chapter on indoor environmental quality: legionellosis, Pontiac fever and allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis are described. The book ends with a useful section on sources of further information.

Although aimed at GPs, there is much here for the beginner in occupational medicine. At its price this is a bargain.

R L Maynard

MTBE: Effects on soil and groundwater resources

By J Jacobs, J Guertin, C Herron, eds. (Pp 245; £53.99.) 2001. Boca Raton, FL: Lewis (CRC Press). ISBN 1 56670 553 3.

This short book provides a great deal of information on that interesting petrol additive and oxygenate methy-ter-butyl ether (MTBE). In fact, more than half the book comprises annexes and indexes of data. The text itself is divided into short chapters that provide an excellent historical introduction, accounts of the chemistry and toxicology of MTBE, and its fate in soil and water. The toxicological section is too brief for this book to be regarded as a key source on this aspect of MTBE—although it points the way to more detailed accounts and the primary literature. So why buy it? The answer is that this book provides an excellent summary of a late 20th century problem in toxicology. MTBE was introduced to improve petrol combustion and reduce emissions of carbon monoxide: it was an alternative to lead. Its introduction in Alaska prompted an outbreak of symptoms: nausea, airway irritation, effects on the CNS. These appeared hardly anywhere else. Groundwater was rapidly contaminated, carcinogenicity was suspected (no evidence in humans) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency recommended that use of the compound should be discontinued in March 2000. Between 1979 and 2000 MTBE attracted enormous attention in the United States: tempers ran high. The influence of science, industrial opinion, and public opinion varied and each had an effect on policy development. For anyone running an MSc course in environmental science/medicine MTBE is a key case study. This book is the best quick way into the subject. It is also an excellent read for those who are speculating on problems likely to occur during the next 20 years!

R L Maynard