Bowditch, who will be remembered for his past association with the Saranac laboratories.

R. E. LANE

Modern Practice in Dermatology. Edited by G. B. Mitchell-Heggs, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. 1950. London: Butterworth & Co. Ltd. Pp. 794. Price 63s.

This book is magnificently produced on art paper, with many illustrations, a few in colour. It is a composite work with 41 authors all writing on different subjects of which they are authorities. It therefore suffers from all the disadvantages which such a work invariably must have. The style of the different articles varies considerably and there is a certain amount of overlapping, but the editor-in-chief is to be congratulated on the excellent way in which he has moulded his material into a whole, which is certainly a valuable reference book on skin diseases. In some chapters there are numerous references, in others none.

The section on industrial dermatitis, which is of most particular interest to the readers of this journal, is by Dr. Sibyl Horner and is written from the point of view of prevention rather than as a description of the many different kinds of skin diseases which are found in industry. These are not omitted from the book but are described in the various sections. It would be an advantage from the aspect of industrial medicine if a chapter had been devoted to a description of these conditions.

In dealing with protection, Dr. Horner pays particular attention to the selection of personnel and considers that the patch test is of considerable value. When a worker is already enrolled in an occupation protection is important, and she discusses the question of protective clothing and barrier substances. Cleanliness is, of course, of the greatest importance, and the provision of washing accommodation and soap and water help perhaps more than anything else in the prevention of skin diseases. Inspection of personnel so that the

conditions may be detected at an early stage is also stressed.

This is certainly as good a reference book of dermatology as exists at the present time. K. M. A. PERRY

Report for the Year 1949 of Central Mining—Rand Mines Group Health Department. By A. J. Orenstein.

The report on the Rand Mines Group for the year 1949 gives a large number of statistics about the health of the native labour employed in these mines, together with data on hospital and feeding costs.

What the outside worker would be particularly interested in with regard to the Rand Mines is, of course, silicosis, and the report comments that the incidence and mortality rates for this disease were respectively 0.90 per 1,000 (79 cases) and 0.10 per 1,000 (9 deaths).

For the rest the report gives the incidence rate for accidents and such diseases as pneumonia, meningococcal meningitis, influenza, enteric fever, scurvy, and heat stroke. There were 220 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (2.52 per 1,000) and 62 deaths which is 0.71 per 1,000. These figures are not remarkable in any way nor are those for the other diseases mentioned.

K. M. A. PERRY

Principles of Medical Statistics. By A. Bradford Hill. 1950. London: *The Lancet*. 5th Edit. Pp. 282. Price 10s. 6d.

To carry out any satisfactory research in medicine at the present time a knowledge of elementary statistics is almost essential. This book of Professor Bradford Hill's is so well known, and the last edition was as recent as 1948, that there is little to say about it that has not already been said. This edition is not greatly different from the previous one, though the author has omitted some paragraphs. It is an excellent book and every doctor should possess a copy.

K. M. A. PERRY