HEALTH EDUCATION ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

(Humphrey Milford, Oxford. 1943. Pp. 63. 8s. 6d.)

This stimulating little book contains five lectures given to the 1942 health education conference of the New York Academy of Medicine. The first by Cassius H. Watson discusses in general terms all the problems involved in the 'industrialization' of the community in wartime, and this acts as an introduction to a more detailed discussion of the various aspects in the later lectures. Otto A. Bessey describes the arrangements necessary for adequate nutrition for the population. He implies that the industrial canteen has been more developed in this country than in the United States; and stresses that its importance is to make certain that the people get the right foods to maintain health and strength and not necessarily the ones they like most. Leonard Greenburg defines the work of the industrial medical officer. Our purpose is to control plant working conditions so that an optimum environment may be provided for the worker; an environment in which he can work with safety and under conditions which are not detrimental to his health. This portion of the problem may and usually is given the name of industrial hygiene, and includes such phases as plant sanitation, illumination, ventilation, safety precautions, occupational disease control, and many others. The second portion of the problem is essentially non-occupational and consists in the conservation of the health of the worker through general supervision, and by the prevention of physical defects, their early detection and correction. Finally, the third phase consists in the restoration of the worker to health and earning capacity as promptly as possible following accident or disease.

In considering medical problems and morale Lydia G. Guberson stresses that the doctor must be a good listener with considerable patience; and it will help him tremendously if he has a sincere interest in human beings and their almost innumerable difficulties. Lastly, Harold R. Baxter records that more Americans will die this year because of civilian accidents than were killed by the Germans in the first World War: the education of workers in the control of accidents in industry is therefore of the greatest importance.

To those who think about the purpose and development of industrial medicine, this book will give many ideas.

K. M. A. P.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

(R.C.P. London. 1943. Pp. 32.)

This excellent interim report makes the following recommendations:

(i) That every medical school should establish a Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, the size and scope of the department depending on the facilities and personnel available.

(ii) That this department should organize a modernized course in Social and Preventive Medicine to replace the present course in Public Health, which, as in the clinical subjects, should be a curriculum founded securely on the basic sciences, growing and expanding through the three clinical years.

(iii) That as well as theoretical teaching such a curricu-