
In recent years there has been less progress than might have been hoped. Shortage of material and labour is given as one of the reasons; administrative difficulties as another. It is suggested that there comes a time, after the introduction of new regulations, when the art of persuasion must give way to enforcement by prosecution which produces effective change in the behaviour of the defendant firm and is also a great stimulus to others.

The building industry is a dangerous one: there were over 12,000 accidents in the year and 222 fatalities. If these tragedies are to be reduced a more active willingness to comply with regulations is required on the part of employers, and possibly this cannot be achieved without the help of an increased factory inspectorate. Though the authorized staff of the inspectorate is 379, the actual number in 1951 was only 340. It is difficult to believe that even 379 inspectors could ensure the regular and thorough inspection of over 200,000 factories with mechanical power, 2,000 docks, 45,000 building sites, besides the numerous other premises to which some or all of the Factories Acts apply. As the report states, it was not possible to visit every factory or other premises under the Act in the course of the year.

The good firm seeking the advice and help of the factory inspector may consume as much time as the bad one which is only too anxious to avoid his attention. If the inspector is to satisfy the demands made upon his time by these two types of employer, it seems unlikely that he will have any left over for the firm that neither seeks nor avoids him but which could generally profit from a gentle prod or friendly advice.

The factory inspector is also required to conduct legal proceedings; 959 charges were brought against 548 firms and 30 of these prosecutions were dismissed.

The part of the Factories Act that produced the largest number of prosecutions was that dealing with safety. There were 341 charges of which 246 were following death or injury and 95 where no such injury occurred. Illegal employment led to the prosecution of 59 firms. They included the employment of women or young persons at night, on Sunday, or after legal hours.

It is clearly misleading to assess the work of the Department in terms of the number of factories visited in the course of the year. However, the comparative figures are given for 1946 and 1951. They were almost exactly the same although there were fewer inspectors in the latter period.

H. G. Maule


The admirable studies of Kanavel on infections of the hand greatly clarified our understanding of the anatomy of sepsis and its treatment. They had however the sad effect of concentrating surgical attention and clinical teaching on the ravages of infection while neglecting the more important sphere of repair to the traumatized hand. In recent years the zeal and enthusiasm of Bunnell and Koch have done much to reorientate our ideas and techniques. It has, however, in the past been difficult to obtain adequate information of the more advanced practice in the surgery of hand repair without a pilgrimage to the occasional specialized centre, and it is opportune that two distinguished Australian surgeons, Rank and Wakefield, have published their excellent book. This deals with the practical aspects of primary treatment to the soft and hard tissues, the treatment of the unhealed wound, the “frozen” hand, and the management of the established scar deformities and burns. Preventive and organizational aspects are also covered with appropriate emphasis.

This monograph is the fruit of their personal experience and contrasts delightfully with the “scissors and paste” school of surgical literature. Although both authors are plastic surgeons they have carefully avoided over stressing elaborate plastic techniques and have kept a sound and discriminating balance throughout.

The text and illustrations are excellently printed, and, although there are several minor misprints, the year of one paper being quoted as 1915 instead of 1951, the whole volume can be heartily recommended to any one concerned in the prevention or treatment of the injured hand. It is far and away the best book of its kind and should be made compulsory reading for every casualty officer and practising surgeon.

R. P. Jepson


There is little which is new or controversial in this book, which endeavours to cover the whole of orthopaedic surgery, including fractures. There is, in addition, a brief account of some of the anatomy, physiology, and pathology concerned. Herein lies its main defect. In order to include such a broad view of the subject detail has been sacrificed and much of the text consists of very brief summaries.

The established or trainee orthopaedic surgeon looking for guidance on difficult problems will not, on the whole, find the answer here.

The book, however, is entitled “Fundamentals” and as such it will provide a valuable source of information for the undergraduate student and those seeking the broad outlines of the subject.

C. G. Attenborough


This is a very useful bibliography of 138 references. It is well worth a place on the shelf of any doctor working, in particular, in a chemical industry. It deals with the