The resulting confusion is the more regrettable at a time when there is a growing understanding of the differences between the two conditions, particularly in their liability to open tuberculosis.

To the English reader the omission of British references is striking. Thus in the chapter on experimental pathology, while the views of Professor Policard (1933) on the pathogenesis of silicosis are described, there is no mention of the work of Professor King and his colleagues. The "two disease" hypothesis that simple pneumoconiosis of coalworkers is due to inhalation of coal dust and progressive massive fibrosis to tuberculosis is never clearly stated. Instead, on page 29, Gough's views on coal-miners' pneumoconiosis are confused with his views on classical silicosis and a misleading impression is created. The I.L.O. international classification (1950) of chest radiographs for pneumoconiosis has perhaps particular relevance to this hypothesis; but in any case, it should surely have been briefly described. The illuminating results of epidemiological research (other than a brief mention of occupational mortality) are almost completely ignored.

The detailed account of the medico-legal aspects of silico-tuberculosis in France and Germany may prove useful to doctors in those countries concerned with compensation. The situation in Great Britain, however, is dismissed too briefly to be of any value.

The book is well produced and the reproductions of the radiographs are generally adequate, though the excavation said to be present in the left upper lobe in Fig. 6 (page 55) is not seen.

Dr. Schweitzer has attempted a difficult task. It is regrettable that her book—obviously the result of considerable labour—adds little to our understanding or knowledge of silico-tuberculosis.

I. T. T. HIGGINS

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Proceedings of the International Conference in Geneva, August, 1955, Volume 10: *Radioactive Isotopes and Nuclear Radiations in Medicine*. (Pp. ix + 544; illustrated. 57s.; \$8.00.) London: H.M.S.O.; New York: United Nations. 1956.

The applications of radioactive isotopes and nuclear radiations in therapeutic radiology and in the diagnosis and study of disease were discussed in some detail at the Geneva Conference; those who are interested in these branches of medicine will find a great deal of useful and up-to-date information in the 85 papers contained in this volume. The impact of nuclear energy on radiotherapy has turned out, so far, to be less dramatic than many of the ardent prognostications of five and 10 years ago. Considerable progress has been made, however, in the refinement of well-established techniques and in the introduction of new types of radioactive sources, and there are reasonable grounds for optimism about the uses of internally administered radioisotopes, particularly in the treatment of certain diseases of the blood and of the thyroid gland.

The greater part of the volume is concerned with the uses of radioactive isotopes in the diagnosis and study

of disease and it is evident that these techniques have already made an impressive contribution in the realm of physiology and pathology.

The biological effects of radiation and the problems of radiological protection are dealt with in volumes 11 and 13 of the proceedings of the Geneva Conference.

A. S. McLEAN

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Proceedings of the International Conference held in Geneva, August, 1955, Volume 11: *Biological Effects of Radiation*. (Pp. 402; illustrated. 57s.; \$8.00.) New York: United Nations. 1956.

It is of fundamental importance that the criteria of safety in radiation work should be founded upon a thorough understanding of the nature of the effects of radiation on human beings. From the point of view of present and future problems, it is fortunate that a considerable amount of useful information has been forthcoming from studies of the injuries sustained not uncommonly by the early radiation workers. Nevertheless, a great deal of animal experimental work has been required in order to fill in the gaps. It is never entirely satisfactory, however, to have to deduce the reactions of one species from observations on the behaviour of others and, to allow for uncertainties in interpretation, the whole approach to radiological safety has been necessarily conservative. For this reason, there can be no doubt about the need for further information about the effects of radiation on human beings.

A particularly important feature of this volume is the fact that a considerable proportion of the 63 papers contained in it are concerned with human aspects of radiobiology; it is, therefore, a very valuable addition to the literature on the biological effects of radiation. The proceedings are presented in sections—on modes of radiation injury, carcinogenesis and metabolism of bone-seeking isotopes, effects on the reproductive system, mechanisms of radiation injury, protection, recovery, and genetics—and in each, there are several interesting papers. The standard of presentation is so high that it would be impossible to single out any one contribution for special mention. Indeed, the list of authors shows that the cream of international opinion was represented at the conference.

It is obvious that, as a scientific meeting, the Geneva Conference was a notable success. No less important, however, was its contribution to international understanding and goodwill.

A. S. McLEAN

Psychological Tests for Accident Proneness and Industrial Proficiency. By E. G. Chambers. Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 31. (2s.). London: H.M. Stationery Office.

In 1919, the Industrial Fatigue Research Board published a study by Greenwood and Woods, "The Incidence