The Preservation of Eyesight. By Sir Arthur Salusbury MacNalty. (Pp. vii + 109; 9 figures. 12s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1958.

This book is claimed to be the first of its kind since 1616 when Walter Baily, Regius Professor of Physic at Oxford, wrote his treatise on the same subject. Few will quarrel with this claim and it is interesting to think of the type of people to whom this modern work will appeal. Many practitioners fight shy of ophthalmology; this book should help to stimulate interest in the subject, however late in life it may be read. Industrial medical officers, nurses, and social workers will acquire useful knowledge from reading it; advice is given on everyday matters dealing with the care and precautions necessary to maintain good eyesight.

The early chapters deal adequately and simply with anatomy, physiology, and elementary optics. (A useful addition would have been a brief description of the protective mechanisms of the eye, both anatomical and physiological, as this would have given the reader more confidence in the ability of Nature to safeguard the sight against injury.)

Ocular nutrition and its relation to variations in diet are considered. A simplified and well constructed explanation of common refractive errors is given, but reference to "colour blindness" instead of "colour vision defect" could possibly be open to criticism.

Common eye diseases are described and the difficulty of imparting too much knowledge on treatment to a lay person is neatly overcome by the simple expression "the doctor may prescribe, . . ." After giving the signs and symptoms of acute glaucoma, it is stated that if the patient consults an ophthalmic surgeon he will be recommended to have an iridectomy. Some ophthalmic surgeons will not agree that this is invariably necessary.

The "Eye in Old Age" presents a homely description of presbyopia, and of the senile cataract there is a comforting account of onset, progress, and treatment that should be easily readable by a lay person, without misunderstanding or creating anxiety in the mind of the reader who may be suffering from this condition. Stress is rightly laid on the steps that can be taken to reduce the handicap of a developing cataract to a minimum in cases where the period of waiting for operation is often tedious.

Of particular interest in the field of industrial medicine is the part dealing with the statutory provisions for blind persons and explanation of the National Assistance Act 1948, Sections 21 and 29. This is followed by a description of the function of authorities and voluntary organizations under the Blind Persons Act of 1920 and 1938 and they act as a useful guide to industrial medical officers when dealing with such cases from the welfare angle. One cannot help being impressed by the arguments used to support the employment of blind persons in such occupations as typists, telephonists, repetitive assembly workers, piano tuners, masseurs, and the musical arts. Ninety-six thousand, and nineteen is a startling figure for blind persons registered at the end of 1956 in England and Wales and equally telling is that of the 200,000 eye injuries occurring in industry annually (most of which are preventable).

The difficulty is mentioned, alas so prevalent, of persuading employees to wear goggles when engaged on "eye risk" occupations. Hardened or toughened glass is recommended, also laminated glass, but it is possible that research will show that laminated plastic lenses are much safer, particularly for foundryworkers.

This simply worded and common-sense book should appeal to a large variety of readers.

C. T. NEWNHAM

Journal of Occupational Medicine: Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1959. Published monthly by the Industrial Medical Association, 28 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, 4. (\$10.00 per annum, single copies \$1.00.)

The publication of this new journal means that the Industrial Medical Association now owns and publishes its own journal. The Industrial Medical Association has gone through a long period of steady, solid growth, and is prepared for the responsibility of ownership and management of a major publication. Recognition of industrial medicine has also been achieved in another field: specialty status has been granted to occupational medicine under the American Board of Preventive Medicine, and several major universities devote substantial resources to graduate training programmes in this specialty. This is progress indeed. But it must be remembered that the Association of Industrial Medical Officers established its own *Transactions* some years ago. The *Journal of Occupational Medicine* has a strong editorial board; it is attractively produced. It will be hard work to maintain this standard for a journal produced monthly. The Industrial Medical Association has the opportunity to produce a journal which will be a valuable addition to the literature and we wish it every success.

L. G. NORMAN

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a latter issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received)

Underwater Escape from Aircraft. By J. W. Norman [Reprint from *Admiralty Bulletin* No. 104]. Royal Naval Scientific Service, Admiralty Hydro-Ballistic Research Establishment. January, 1959.

A Comparison of the United Kingdom Tariff and the Proposed Tariff of the European Economic Community. Prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd. (Pp. 16 foolscap + 14 tables. 10s.) London: Federal Trust for Education and Research. 1959.

Public Good or Official Prejudice? Second edition. (Pp. 16; pamphlet.) Committee for Homeopathy in Universities and Teaching Hospitals (A. W. Hopkins, St. Albans). 1959.

The Ciba Foundation for the Promotion of International Co-operation in Medical and Chemical Research. Report for 1958. (Pp. 52.) London. 1959.