Glorig's small but expensive monograph (over three shillings per page!) can immediately be assessed as well worth the cost. It is the first of a series of modern monographs in industrial medicine, the whole series to be edited by A. J. Lanza; future projects concern industrial rehabilitation, alcoholics at work, sight conservation, and the employment of cardiac patients. If these promised siblings all prove to be as readable and explicit as their "noisy" elder brother, Dr. Lanza will have fathered a family of notable distinction.

The monograph is written "primarily for persons who require only a general knowledge of the subject, persons who are interested in many biologic hazards of which noise exposure is only one, and persons who may find it their responsibility to organize noise control programmes and hearing conservation programmes".

The author writes with acknowledged authority. He is Director of Research, Sub-Committee on Noise in Industry of the Committee on Conservation of Hearing of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

The book is divided into seven sections: Introduction; The Ear and Hearing; Audiometry; Hearing Loss; Effects of Noise Exposure; Conservation of Hearing; and Compensation and Rating Scales. This may not necessarily be a logical sequence but the text and the development of concepts flow smoothly.

The glossary of audiological terms in section I.3 is particularly useful. Herein the author emphasizes (p. 21) the importance of identifying the reference level whenever sound levels are quoted. This he himself assiduously does, except on p. 50, Fig. 5, 4, where the reference level of the ordinate expressed in decibels is omitted but understood to be 0.0002 dynes per square centimetre. This, however, is but a trivial omission.

In 9.5 (pp. 83 and 84) which deals with the proper care and calibration of audiometers, mention is not made of the British standard of calibration which differs significantly from its transatlantic counterpart. As the monograph is published both in New York and London this can be misleading for British readers. The somewhat parochial attitude in relation to statutory recognition of occupational hearing loss is surprising in a book presumably designed for international reference. Some 20 countries have specific legislation of this nature (Great Britain is not amongst them) and "blanket coverage" for all forms of illness occupationally arising is a feature of many lands. The question raised therefore is not carping by a "little englander": many large international consortia and transport organizations operate hazardously noisy processes in countries having an explicit legal remedy for locally employed nationals.

Some authorities in this country might not readily accept the author's estimate (p. 133) of noise-induced hearing loss in the industrial population, based on the 1954 Wisconsin State fair hearing survey; statistical objections, in part valid, can be postulated. The estimated possible cost of compensation in the United States during the next decade is quoted as 154 million dollars if the specific criteria pertaining in the State of Wisconsin are applied; such talk of Eldorado makes the humblest physician here feel quite heady!

The discussion of compensation and rating scales is particularly interesting for readers here; a great deal can be learned from such transatlantic experience.

"Acoustics Noise and Buildings" is produced by a scientist from the Building Research Station (Parkin) and a consultant architect (Humphreys), in a more simple and comprehensible manner than Harris', "Handbook of Noise Control" and it covers many aspects therein considered. The book will be of particular interest to the architect, the acoustics engineer, and all who are interested in achieving at the design stage, conditions likely to augment working efficiency. The main emphasis is on criteria of acoustic comfort rather than on safety for noise-induced hearing loss.

The chapters dealing with the nature of sound, behaviour of sound in rooms, sound insulation and noise control, and that on criteria for sound insulation and noise control, possess interest for readers of this journal. Appendix A contains a useful table of absorption coefficients of some 65 materials commonly used in sound insulation planning. Appendix D tables a baker's dozen of some everyday industrial noises analysed in octave bands. Few industrial physicians would need to have this book always to hand, but it is a valuable reference source when considering architectural plans for noisy sites, or for premises where the exacting and skilled nature of the job demands freedom from distracting sound.

OWEN MCGIRR

Recent Studies in Epidemiology. Edited by J. Pemberton and H. Willard. (Pp. xiii + 203; illustrated. 25s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1958.

The 18 papers in this book were presented at the Study Group on Current Epidemiological Research organized by the International Corresponding Club and held in Holland in 1957. The aim, which has been realized, was to assemble information on the ways in which epidemiological methods are being used in different parts of the world to investigate the incidence and causation of disease and to assess the needs of communities for various health services. The main topics discussed and covered by the chapters of the book are: the use of existing morbidity and the mortality records in epidemiological research; the *ad hoc* field survey or getting your own data; the evaluation of health needs and services by the epidemiological method including applications to underdeveloped territories; application of the epidemiological method to problems in mental health; general practice as a field for epidemiology.

This is not a text-book of epidemiology; it goes further than a text-book in giving practical examples, carefully worked out by experts, of epidemiological techniques. These examples will be of great help to those who wish to brush up their epidemiology. Some, such as the studies of sickness absence records in chronic bronchitis (D. D. Reid), observer error (C. M. Fletcher), and cancer of the lung and cancer of the nose in nickel refiners (W. Richard Doll), are of direct interest in occupational health.

L. G. NORMAN