

reduce this handicap, the diet should be carefully adjusted in quality as some of the amino-acids may soon be markedly deficient. Certain authorities have given intravenous protein hydrolysates for some days after the injury, finding that this improves appetite and is generally helpful. Similarly, insulin has also been given to improve the appetite. Although much is written about the care of the bladder after spinal injury, the writers admit that the mechanisms governing its action are often difficult to understand. In discussing the care of the bowel, they emphasize that a high residue diet gives far better results than one of low residue, which is often prescribed since the patient is regarded as being more ill than injured.

One case here reported is of unusual interest. A man fell from a tree and was found to have a lateral dislocation of L.1 on L.2. Though completely paralysed at first, he was up and about after two months with little to show apart from some weakness in the right foot. Part of L.1 had sheared off but the cord was clearly almost intact.

The biochemical changes seen in this condition are described very fully.

The difficulty of making an immediate diagnosis of injury to the cord may be great since several conditions, other than this, may suggest that its functions are locally impaired. Hernia of a disc may occur. If cervical, it may cause pain similar to that of torticollis, extending to the shoulder and arm. Or the cord may be suffering from commotion, contusion or shock, but without division of its essential parts.

The writers consider that androgens such as testosterone are of considerable value in treatment, both by assisting osteoblastosis and by their general stimulant effect. Some value is attached to Bogomoletz' serum in speeding up the healing of bedsores. For these pedicle grafts have also been used.

In the chapter on laminectomy the work of Böhler receives a tribute while chordotomy is well described and well illustrated.

The chapters on training specialists in this field and on the equipment needed are interesting. To judge from the illustrations, there is no lack of good apparatus and no lack of skill in its use.

The reviewer, when working with Italian doctors during the war, had the impression that pre-operative measures and post-operative care, if understood, were rarely used to the same degree as in Anglo-Saxon countries. Judging from this book, a great improvement has occurred in Italy in this respect.

G. C. PETHER

Pneumoconiosis Abstracts, Vol. III, 1951-1955. Reproduced from the *Bulletin of Hygiene* by permission of the Honorary Managing Committee of the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases. (Pp. viii + 376. 65s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1959.

This most useful volume is a sequel to the two preceding volumes which were published in 1953 and 1954. These volumes contain abstracts which first appeared in the *Bulletin of Hygiene*; the first volume covered the years 1926 to 1938, the second 1939 to 1950, and the present volume covers the years 1951 to 1955 inclusive. The set of three volumes therefore contains a comprehensive collection of abstracts of the important papers published in this field during a period of 30 years.

In addition to abstracts on the various forms of pneumoconiosis, abstracts of articles are included which deal with standards of air dustiness, with concentrations of dust from various processes, with technical methods of measurement of dust, and with the study of the physical properties of dusts and of their chemical and mineralogical characters.

All persons concerned with the study and control of dust diseases will find these volumes an invaluable source of information.

The latest volume is a good example of how useful the photographic method of reproduction can be.

J. G. GILSON.

Books Received

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

Guide to Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation. (Pp. 51; 18 figures. 3s. 6d.). London: H.M.S.O.; Geneva: World Health Organization. 1960.

Elongation of Low Back Pain. By George H. Hassard and Charles L. Redd; Foreword by Harvey E. Billing and R. S. Minsker. (Pp. xvi + 78; 47 figures. 36s.). Oxford: Blackwell; Springfield: Thomas. 1959.

Die Asbestose des Lungen: genese-Klinik-Röntgenologie. By H. Bohlig, G. Jacob, and H. Müller. (Pp. viii + 166; 137 figures. DM66.-). Stuttgart: Thieme. 1960.

Data Sheets on Dust Collectors. (Pp. 38 + index; illustrated; 30s.). Sheffield: British Steel Castings Research Association. 1960.

Air Sampling Instruments. (Illustrated; \$7.50). Cincinnati: American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. 1960.