The book is easy to read on a 5-in. line, set in Times Roman type face and printed on a non-gloss paper. The pictures are good, too.

Owen McGirr


This is a valuable contribution to existing knowledge on a subject which has attracted much intensive research especially during the last decade. It comprises the 21 papers contributed at a symposium held at the Postgraduate Medical School of London in September, 1957 and March, 1958, and, by virtue of the coordinated arrangement of the papers, it presents a clear statement of the present position of thought and practice in this field in Britain.

Coalworkers' pneumoconiosis occupies a prominent place in many of the papers and a few deal specifically with it. This is to be expected: for it is the most prevalent disease due to dust and the object of much research carried out in Britain and sponsored by the Medical Research Council and the National Coal Board as well as other bodies.

In a general survey of industrial pulmonary diseases in Britain, A. Meiklejohn reviews some of the statistics available and indicates the need for special investigations into the significance of variations in prevalence. The pathology of the pneumoconioses is dealt with by J. Gough and A. G. Heppleston and special reference is made to characteristics of the disease found in workers in coal, asbestos, and talc. The reaction of the lung to dust is studied by E. J. King and C. V. Harrison in a brief paper on experimental evidence in favour of the hypothesis that massive fibrosis in miners is due to a combination of dust and tuberculous infection. The physical process of deposition of dust in the lungs is described by C. N. Davies in a lucid examination of the process and its results. G. Nagelschmidt reviews the theories on the origin of the silicotic nodule and the experimental evidence underlying them. Ultrastructural work by French observers points to changes in the mitochondria and the death of the cell apparently resulting from the action of silica fume, the test substance. Radiology occupies three papers: G. Simon writes on problems in taking and reading chest radiographs; C. M. Fletcher recapitulates the radiological diagnosis of pneumoconiosis and discusses the differential diagnosis; P. J. Chapman, on radiography in the field, gives details of equipment and techniques required for a high and consistent standard. In epidemiology of coalworkers' pneumoconiosis A. L. Cochrane refers to research work carried out by the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit in South Wales. In this area too the Miners' Chest Diseases Treatment Centre gives hospital treatment for advanced cases of the disease.

Normal lung function and its measurement is discussed by P. Hugh-Jones. The disturbance of pulmonary function in industrial pulmonary disease is discussed by J. C. Gilson; an important and significant distinction is made between pneumoconioses fitting the International Labour Office radiographic classification and those which do not fit; other conditions considered are byssinosis, cadmium smelters' emphysema, and late effects of acute exposure to irritant gases. The general principles in the use of pulmonary function tests in epidemiological work are described by C. B. McKerrow.

The pneumoconioses of tin-miners, granite workers and china clay workers in Cornwall are described by L. W. Hale. A. J. G. McLaughlin writes on iron and other radio-opaque dusts encountered in several occupations. A. John Robertson describes the processes of tin smelting and gives an illustration of a radiograph of a tin smelter's lungs. The epidemiology of byssinosis is described by R. S. F. Schilling.

Other notable contributions are studies on bronchitis in industry by I. T. T. Higgins; occupational lung cancer by Richard Doll; and a well illustrated article on rheumatoid disease and pneumoconiosis by Anthony Caplan. The final paper on the prevention of silicosis, by Donald Hunter, contains the essential principles of this most important approach to all the problems of pulmonary disease due to dust.

The volume is well presented by the publishers; a relevant bibliography accompanies each paper; and there is an excellent index.

E. L. Middleton


This report is based on that of the W.H.O. Expert Committee on Hygiene and Sanitation in Aviation, 1959. It is a considerable improvement on previous publications of this nature including that of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, whose handbook on Sanitation of Airlines (1953) is now seriously outdated.

This well written handbook deals with three abiding principles, which hold true on the ground and in the air.

(a) Food and water and the utensils or vessels used for services must be free from both living organisms of disease and toxic substances of any origin.

(b) Persons must be kept from contact with infected wastes, particularly human wastes.

(c) Persons must be kept from contact with infected insects, rodents, or other vectors of disease.

Accordingly, subsections are devoted to and specific recommendations made on, the sanitation of water, drinking fountains, disinfection of water, aircraft water systems, water service outlets, water hoses, water carts, food preparation, food handlers, building and premises for food preparation, cleansing and germicidal treatment, food sanitation on aircraft, toilet waste disposal, sewage disposal, refuse disposal, aircraft toilet fluids, and finally insect control, mosquito proofing, fly control, and rodent control. This is a comprehensive list of subjects for a small handbook and the matters raised are dealt with firmly, accurately for the greater part, and with clarity.

There is still no attempt to lay down international standards for aircraft toilet fluids. Economics aside, some international agreement on this subject is urgently required. Aircraft in this day and age may be handled by a large number of countries on an agency basis, so