of which was published under his auspices.

At heart, he always remained a clinician, although in his great humility, he disclaimed any clinical acumen. He published papers on tuberculosis and peptic ulcer. Occupational health, to his mind, was mainly a clinical subject and not merely a question of paper administration, or the domain of the public health man. His policy, when in charge, to attract the man with the M.R.C.P., rather than the man with the D.P.H., has borne fruit, and, like himself, his successor and several of his former assistants have become distinguished Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians.

In 1943, Sir Henry Bashford became Treasury Medical Adviser and responsible for a new medical service intended to cover the whole Civil Service, and including, apart from health, advice on welfare and environment. He was also, for a time, a member of the Industrial Health Research Board. Another of his interests was the St. John Ambulance Association, because of the importance he attributed to well-organized first aid. He was Knighted in 1939 and from 1941 to 1944 he was an Honorary Physician to the King.

Literature always remained his great love, and many of us enjoyed *The Corner of Harley Street*, *The Harley Street Calendar*, *Wiltshire Harvest* and, especially, *Doctors in Shirt-sleeves*; this latter he edited for a number of his colleagues, who wrote about their hobbies in a lighter vein. He contributed to medical biography by writing a large part of the latest volume of *Munk's Roll*, short biographies of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians.

Next to literature, he loved painting; but travel, fishing, good wine, and good food were also high on the list. He enjoyed convivial gatherings of his many friends, and intelligent and lively conversation.

In all his activities he was most ably supported by his wife, whom he had married in 1908. After many years of an ideally happy married life, Lady Bashford died in 1955, to Sir Henry's deep sorrow. One son and three daughters survive him.

V. C. MEDVEI

BOOK REVIEWS

Paracelsus: Magic into Science. By Henry M. Pachter. (Pp. x + 360; 11 figures. \$4; 30s.) New York: Henry Schuman; London: Abelard Schuman. 1961.

Theophrastus Aureolus Bombastus von Hohenheim, son of a physician, was born at Einsiedeln, Switzerland, about 1493. He died in 1541 and is buried at Salzburg, where his grave was considered to disperse healing vapours. By his contemporaries he was nicknamed Paracelsus—excelling Celsus—and as such he became a legend celebrated in the poetry of Goethe, Marlowe, and Browning and as the original of Dr. Faustus. His admirers have proclaimed him the founder of biochemistry and chemotherapy and a visionary who foresaw the discovery of television and radar. Equally his critics have denounced him as a charlatan and a vagabond.

To doctors in industry Paracelsus has a special interest in that he was the author of the first monograph on occupational diseases. The book entitled *Von der Bergsucht und anderen Bergkrankheiten (On the Miners' Sickness and Other Miners' Diseases)* was written about 1534, thus preceding *De Re Metallica* by Georgius Agricola. Both works were published posthumously, the former in 1567 and the latter in 1556. Paracelsus during his vagrant life worked at the metal mines in Carinthia, Sweden, the Inn valley, and elsewhere and so his writings are based on personal experience. The monograph is divided into three books which successively deal with pulmonary diseases of miners, diseases of smelters and metallurgists, and diseases caused by mercury.

This latest addition to the already voluminous literature on Paracelsus is a scholarly book ranging over every aspect of the doctor's enigmatic life and times. It is commended to all who wish to learn something of the philosophy of medicine during the Renaissance and the Reformation. Each chapter is headed by a quotation, usually from the works of Paracelsus. Does the following suggest that Paracelsus has a further claim to fame in that he foresaw the founding of the International Labour Organization and the promotion of International Congresses on Occupational Health?

"No man becomes master while he stays at home, nor finds a teacher behind the stove. Diseases wander here and there the whole length of the world. He who would understand them must wander, too."

A. MEIKLEJOHN

The Health of People Who Work. By Albert Q. Maisel. (Pp. xiii + 268. 40s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1961.

In March 1959 the National Health Forum held by the National Health Council of the United States discussed "The Health of People Who Work". There were

over 500 participants including industrial physicians, personnel directors, professors of medicine and public health, psychiatrists, safety and sanitary engineers, and representatives of many industries. This book is based upon the papers and Reports to the Forum. The general conclusions for more than 25 Forum meetings were that "there is need for more attention to the health of people who work in business, industry and on farms; that there is successful and profitable experience to be shared; and that there are resources, only partially tapped, to help develop occupational health services". These laudable objectives are discussed in 12 chapters ranging from "The Goals of Occupational Health Programs" to, inevitably, "Preparing the Worker for Retirement". Perhaps the theme of the book is best indicated by the second chapter, "Are Occupational Health Programs Worthwhile?" That is, it is a refreshing study of aims, policies, and principles; refreshing because there is no tiresome repetition of known facts and data. In a country where there is no national health service on the British pattern and where health services for employees tend therefore to become a fringe benefit, the approach to occupational health is necessarily different from ours. Many points therefore merit study. The style is more popular than pedantic. This book provides many examples on which to fulfil the instruction which is said to be placed on many American executives' desks: THINK. Not much thought has been devoted lately in this country to the subject of Chapter 8, "Health Education in the Occupational Setting". Naturally there are points for disagreement. The production is excellent and there is a useful list of United States agencies concerned with occupational health. As an account of present-day policies and principles of occupational health in the U.S.A., this work is recommended.

L. G. NORMAN

Occupational Health Nursing. By F. H. Tyrer. (Pp. x + 173; 19 figures. 25s.) London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1961.

In his preface, Dr. Tyrer says his book is primarily intended as a book for nurses studying for the Occupational Health Nursing Certificate of the Royal College of Nursing or the Birmingham Accident Hospital. In fact, the book is not only a veritable "must" for every potential Occupational Health Nurse, but will prove a useful reference for those already qualified and experienced in the rapidly expanding field of Occupational Health Nursing. It is plain throughout that the assistance of experienced Occupational Health Nurses has been sought in highlighting and dealing with the everyday problems which beset nurses embarking on this specialized work for the first time, and it caters also for those nurses working in industry and commerce, without a medical officer.

The opening chapters deal with the growth of Occupational Health legislation since the eighteenth century followed by an outline of present-day law relating to Occupational Health. Most aspects of the work of the Occupational Health Nurse are covered in the following chapters: the administration of the medical department,

the nurses' duties, her place in the Occupational Health team, her relationships with workers, management, and trade unions, record keeping, and health supervision of special groups. The chapters on accident services and special treatments provide a sound basis for standing orders, which could easily be adapted to meet the needs of any size or type of industry.

References and general information given about the Royal College of Nursing emphasize the value and necessity for occupational health nurses to hold membership of a professional organization.

This is an absorbingly interesting and readable book. It will be welcomed by all nurses associated with industry, but it is hoped its reading will not be confined to Occupational Health areas as it could be read with advantage by many others, e.g. managements who would get some idea of the standard of services they are entitled to expect from competent nurses with specialized training in an industrial setting, and ward sisters, sister tutors, and final year student nurses who would gain an understanding of the important scope and fascinating interest which is available to us all in the world of preventive medicine.

MARY BLAKELEY

Précis de Toxicologie. Vols. 1 and 2. By René Fabre and René Truhaut. (Pp. 721; 32 figures + tables.) Paris: Société d'édition d'enseignement supérieur. 1960.

This book is based on the courses of lectures on toxicology given to the medical and pharmacy students in Paris. To help them with their revision the authors have even marked certain paragraphs with asterisks to indicate compulsory reading. The book deals with toxicology as it relates to forensic medicine, therapeutics, public health, and industrial hygiene, but in covering such a wide field there are inevitable gaps. The general discussion occupying the first 76 pages is short and clear. The general headings of the next sections are misleading. Thus, under "Gaseous and Volatile Poisons" one finds methylcholanthrene and DDT.

The next big section is headed "Methods of extraction of organic poisons by the use of solvents", but it includes an account of the toxic properties of a whole range of substances, including metals. The characteristic rigidity of so many teaching courses is illustrated perhaps by the six pages devoted to "ptomaines", while parathion, which has caused many deaths under a wide variety of circumstances, gets only three lines. Eserine has two lines, but confine two pages, mainly related to the death of Socrates. Barium is discussed among the relatively few metals considered, while neither beryllium nor nickel are mentioned.

Due respect is paid to history and tradition both in the recounting of incidents and frequent references to Orfila whose textbook on poisons appeared in 1814. While it is easy to point to omissions in a book of this kind one must also salute the achievement of the authors on compressing so much information into such a readable form. There is a simple index listing the substances mentioned, but there are no references.

J. M. BARNES