This well-known book of Miss Tidy's, which is intended for senior students and recently qualified physiotherapists, has been revised by Mrs. J. O. Wale, formerly physiotherapist in charge of the neurological section of St. Thomas's Hospital.

In contradistinction to its title, it describes not only physical treatment but also the anatomy, the pathology, and the medical and surgical treatment of almost every condition likely to be encountered by a physiotherapist.

The book outlines in detail all injuries and diseases of the skeletal and locomotor systems, and the section on neurological conditions is excellent. General medical conditions, classwork, and the problems of treating children and the aged are dealt with adequately.

The general layout of the book with small typescript gives the impression of crowding and is difficult to read even though frequently broken up by sub-headings. As pointed out by the editor, controversy has been avoided. This is perhaps inevitable in a textbook of this nature, but because of it the book is rather dry reading.

In spite of these criticisms this is a very useful book with a good reference system and it would be an asset to any physiotherapist's library.

J. R. Burrows


Carlo Serra and Luigi Ambrosio have written a most useful book on their studies of electroencephalograms made both in animal and human experiments. They wished, in particular, to study the effects of certain industrial poisons and hazards on the tracings.

In their first chapters they describe the effects of metabolic imbalance, of noise, and of overbreathing on the normal E.E.G. Later they deal with the effects of alcoholic excess, including accidental poisoning in industries using this material. Some of the effects of arsenic, of the halogens, of cyanide, mercury, and manganes are of great interest.

Poisoning with carbon monoxide provides interesting material for study, and the effects of cerebral lesions from this cause, illustrated by enlargements of microscope sections, may be correlated to some extent with the E.E.G. changes observed. Indeed, in certain cases of suspected poisoning of industrial origin, it may be only with E.E.G. evidence that one can assess the full extent of any damage suffered.

Clearly some of the changes are reversible, but if a subject has once clinically suffered effects from any poison, it may be found that further effects can be detected more easily, as in the case of carbon bisulphide poisoning described here, if this aid to diagnosis is available.

In recent years many new insecticides have been brought into use and, as is now better appreciated, some of them are extremely poisonous. A case of DDT poisoning is noted in which the electrical activity was slowed and a previously dominant frequency could no longer be seen. There were paroxysmal changes during hyperventilation deriving from the temporo-central area.

Eight months later this zone was still somewhat abnormal in its excitability.

Methyl bromide was found to be widespread in its effects on the brain and with no special point of attack.

Noxious physical agents were also studied, both mechanical injury and the effects of electric shock. Even after recovery from the immediate effects the E.E.G. may give useful information about residual damage which may be difficult or impossible to detect by the usual clinical methods.

Similar considerations apply to head injury of physical origin, and in some cases the apparent development of diabetes after accident, perhaps used as a basis for a compensation claim, may be better assessed with the help of E.E.G. evidence.

This book is illustrated with many excellent figures and diagrams.

G. C. Pether


In 1949 beryllium ceased to be included in the phosphors which coat the inside of fluorescent lamp tubes. This year, in 1962, Imperial Chemical Industries announce the closure of their one-and-a-half million pound beryllium plant, since the metal has been found to be too brittle when it cools from relatively high temperatures to make satisfactory fuel cans for the Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor. The first of these decisions turned upon a point of health, the second upon metallurgy. Both of them represent two fundamental steps in the prevention of beryllium disease.

The toxicity of this metal and its compounds is fully described in this Elsevier Monograph which comes by General Hospital out of Institute of Technology, both from the world famous stable of Massachusetts. Here is some of the best kind of co-operation between two doctors and an industrial hygiene engineer, members of the staff of the Department of Medicine and of the local Occupational Medical Service.

The monograph, which will fit easily into the pocket, describes the terminology, history, epidemiology, and the acute and chronic forms of beryllium disease. The x-ray changes, pathology, and pulmonary function are then discussed. The final chapters deal with the beryllium patch test, the experimental toxicology, the route of the metal in the body, and the industrial hygiene aspects. There is a list of 297 references and an index.

A few positive, but at the same time tentative, suggestions for making the style go more easily to the reader may perhaps be made.

This pocket book is packed with information, broken up into a slightly staccato style by the continuous interjection of quoted references, together with many case studies. A continuous narrative, with grouped references under headings at the end of each chapter, might be smoother, combined perhaps with a simple summary of what has gone before.
Unless the publisher can provide the shiniest of art paper throughout or interleaved at the appropriate places, any author should consider carefully whether he should include radiographs, photomicrographs, or halftone photographs of complicated mechanical situations. Authors frequently underestimate the loss which occurs in reproduction.

Finally, a point about the index. It makes the reader cross to look up, for example, "allergy" and be told "see hypersensitivity". This is a "pass to you, please" technique which can be maddening. Either both words should have page numbers after them or if the author considers them synonymous he might well use only one throughout his text.

But these are only suggestions for putting a little more polish upon an already highly informative monograph which should be upon the shelves of every doctor, scientist, and executive who has need of knowledge upon what the metal beryllium does to human beings.

R. C. Browne


Every three years one of the national committees of the Permanent Commission and International Association on Occupational Health arranges an international Congress. The immensity of their task is illustrated by the fact that 1568 people from 51 countries registered at the New York Congress in 1960. Among their final duties is the publication of the Congress Proceedings, and the present volume is an excellently produced record. The standard of production is extremely good, in cover, illustrations, quality of paper, and type. There are opening Reports on the work of the sub-committees of the Permanent Commission, including the resolutions of the international symposium on Maximum Allowable Concentrations held in Prague in 1959 and attended by over 100 experts from 26 countries.

Under the general headings of Administrative Practices, Surgical Practices, Medical Practices, Education and Training, Environmental Hygiene, Social and Legal Aspects, Influence of Environmental Factors on Health, Work Physiology and Psychology, and Maximum Allowable Concentrations, the Proceedings include 258 papers. The reading of so many papers in a week's Congress means that the individual participant can attend only a small selection. But the Proceedings form a compact record of all of them and provide a valuable summary of current trends in Occupational Health in many countries, invaluable for reference. There is an index of authors, but not of subjects: the lack of a subject index is not noticeable as the titles of the many short papers are sufficient. The great majority of the papers are in English. The organizers of future Congresses will have a difficult task in emulating this magnificent production.

L. G. Norman


This work is not a textbook of industrial medicine, nor indeed does it pretend to be one. In the words of the author: "The primary purpose of this book is to help the practising physician interested in industrial medicine to orient himself in a new environment"—and it does just that and no more.

The work has a quite extensive bibliography but the multiple references are, with a very few exceptions, culled from other United States authors. Two chapters are given over to workmen's compensation and medical insurance schemes, but in our welfare state, with its different type of "health service" which has no parallel in the United States, these pages will be wasted on any budding Industrial Medical Officer in the United Kingdom.

The author goes into details regarding the qualifications, both academic and otherwise, of candidates for positions as Industrial Nurses, and Industrial Medical Officers. He tabulates the duties and responsibilities of the professional nurse in an Industrial Medical Service, but I feel that he tends to lay too much responsibility at the nurse's door—expecting her to perform duties which I feel more rightly fall into the lap of the Medical Officer.

G. A. Lawrenson


Since 1937, when the first edition appeared, Sir Austin Bradford Hill's book has been guide, philosopher, and friend to many doctors who have had to use the statistical method to present their work. This edition is of even more value than the previous ones to industrial medical officers because three new chapters have been added, dealing with the elements of sampling, the carrying out of scientific investigations, and the problems of defining and measuring sickness. This edition is only slightly larger than the older editions because there has been some condensation of subjects and some rewriting and rearranging of the material. The presentation is as clear and lucid as before, helping us to avoid the obvious and not so obvious pitfalls of medical statistics.

P. A. B. Raffle


With two possible exceptions, malaria and typhus, the diseases dealt with in this volume constitute a greater threat to armies in the field than any yet experienced and, from the military point of view, are therefore of outstanding importance.

The authors, all eminent specialists, set out to draw attention more particularly to the military problems