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 half-tone 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.