Practice of Industrial Medicine

A short intensive course in the Practice of Industrial Medicine will be held in the Department of Occupational Health, University of Manchester, from Monday, November 5 to Saturday November 10, 1962, inclusive. The course is designed to meet the needs of full-time and part-time industrial medical officers. Part-time industrial medical officers who are in general practice will be able to apply for a Ministry of Health grant under Section 48 of the National Health Service Act. Numbers will be strictly limited. Registration fee £9 0s. 0d. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Nuffield Department of Occupational Health, Clinical Sciences Building, York Place, Manchester 13, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Fourth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Risks

The Secretary General of L'Association internationale de la Sécurité sociale (A.I.S.S.) has announced that the fourth World Congress will take place in London on July 13-18, 1964.

The Congress, which will be organized by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in collaboration with the Committee for the Prevention of Occupational hazards of the A.I.S.S. and with the agreement of the Bureau International du Travail (B.I.T.), will make its principal subject "Reduction of the Risks of Work" through study and experience.

The preceding congresses took place in Rome in 1955, Brussels in 1958, and Paris in 1961.

Information can be obtained from:

RoSPA,
Industrial Safety Division,
Terminal House,
Grosvenor Gardens,
London S.W.1.

BOOK REVIEWS

Human Ecology and Susceptibility to the Chemical Environment. By Theron G. Randolph. (Pp. vii + 148; 1 figure. \$6.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1962.

This book describes some of the discomforts suffered by individuals hypersensitive to one or more chemicals in our environment. The author implies that all such agents are products of man-made environment and seems to ignore completely plant and animal sources which probably cause far more discomfort to greater numbers of hypersensitive people than any synthetic chemical. Thus people sensitive to the smell of newspapers (p. 44) or those who have to have their cars selected for them by the author (p. 57) might soon be equally miserable in the country among horses, primulas, or timothy grass. An experiment designed to test the alleged toxicity of pesticide residues must have given an unexpected result as the figures are carefully not presented (p. 65). As these man-made chemicals are all described as irritants it is somewhat surprising to be told that they may induce overpowering sleepiness (p. 58). In an insomnia-ridden world the author might make better use of this observation!

Though Darwin is quoted in the references, the author can hardly be said to have emulated him in the patient collection and presentation of facts.

J. M. BARNES

The Occupational Hygiene Service. (Pp. 11.) Slough: Occupational Hygiene Service. 1961.

This fifteenth report on the Occupational Hygiene Service of the Slough Industrial Health Service covers a nine-month period up till April 1961, when the Hygiene Service became an independent organization.

The report lists the wide variety of hazards investigated and on which advice was given. Approximately half this service was to industries outside Slough. A brief account is given of investigation of a plasma jet process, lead paste manufacture, an outbreak of dermatitis, a ventilation problem, and the welding of beryllium copper alloy. A long-term audiometric survey is described.

This service, which has developed under the direction of Dr. Austin Eagger, has been successively served by Dr. Herford, Dr. Nash, Dr. Challen, Mr. Sherwood, and Dr. Hickish, with the technical assistance of many others. It has developed from nothing to a service now capable of measuring most environmental hazards on a commercial basis. The cost has not so far been fully met by the recipients of service and has therefore had to