to contact with chemicals. He deals with diseases of the skin or mucous membranes in which aromatic amines are often responsible.

In dealing with these substances the writer suggests that benzene, as distinct from benzol, is relatively harmless, but in recent years cases of chronic poisoning from motor fuels not containing benzol have been reported. From some confusion in nomenclature this has occasionally been overlooked.

The author notes that the association of lead poisoning with chronic vascular disease is disputed, and that in the latter the blood picture may suggest lead poisoning but may have another explanation.

In discussing carbon monoxide poisoning Koelsch describes the grave damage to nerve tissue that may occur. It seems that much of this can be irreversible so that it is difficult to avoid the word chronic in describing later effects.

This little book provides a useful summary of the law on the subject in Western Germany.

G. C. PETHER

Nutrition and Health, being the Cantor Lectures delivered before The Royal Society of Arts, together with Two Earlier Essays. By Robert McCarrison and a postscript by H. M. Sinclair. (Pp. 125; 8 figures. 16s.) London: Faber and Faber. 1962.

Sir Robert McCarrison's Cantor lectures were delivered before the Royal Society of Arts in 1936, and published in the same year. A second edition appeared in 1953, and now, after McCarrison's death, a third edition has been published, with a preface and last chapter by Dr. H. M. Sinclair.

It says much for McCarrison's foresight that these lectures do not seem "dated", even today. Great advances in the science of nutrition have been made during the past 25 years, but these largely fill in the details, and the basic principles were all clearly recognized by McCarrison a quarter of a century ago. McCarrison spent much of his life in India, where his pioneer work led to the foundation of the Nutrition Research Laboratories at Coonoor. He was interested in such problems as the cause of goitre among people living in the foothills of the Himalayas, and the reason why the diets eaten by various Indian races led to poor health and stunted growth. He fed rats on typical Indian diets and showed that they responded as man did to the unsatisfactory food.

In the last chapter entitled "Recent Advances", Dr. Sinclair sets out McCarrison's thesis as "the greatest single factor in the acquisition and maintenance of good health is perfectly constituted food", and he shows how the knowledge accumulated in the past 25 years everywhere supplements, and nowhere corrects, the thesis.

Those who are interested in the importance of nutrition in medicine should read or re-read this book, and anyone who is called upon to lecture to a non-specialist audience on some aspect of nutrition might do far worse than take the subject matter of this publication as his text.

E. M. WIDDOWSON

Toxicology of the Eye. By W. Morton Grant. (Pp. ix + 641; 2 tables. \$16.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Thomas. 1962.

This book is unique and from the industrial point of view will be a treasure, for within its pages a mine of information is gathered. It summarizes what is known (and some things as yet generally unknown) about a vast number of chemical substances that may cause harmful effects on the eye—some 1,600 in all—detailing the experimental work carried out in each case and the clinical observations in the literature. The whole is arranged alphabetically as in an encyclopaedia and, packed with information as it is, is quite unreadable (even to a reviewer); but a sample study of a number of the annotations is sufficient to indicate its value as a source of reference to the doctor in industry, a value enhanced by the useful cross-references in the index. The full bibliographies to each short section make it easy to pursue in greater detail the effects of any particular chemical substance, and no effort is made to conceal our comparative ignorance of many of them. A final chapter, full of common sense, deals with the emergency and long-term treatment of chemical lesions of the eye.

STEWART DUKE-ELDER

Accident Prevention. The Role of Physicians and Public Health Workers. Editorial Consultant Maxwell N. Halsey. (Pp. v + 400; illustrated. 93s.) New York, Toronto, and London: The Blakiston Division. 1961.

Accidents don't happen; they are caused. It is this generally, but not entirely, accepted thesis which is the basis of the new work by a number of American medical and lay authors. Much of the text is concerned with the complex causation of accidents as they occur amongst various social and occupational groups.

Most chapters are sufficient to provide adequate teaching material for both the advanced undergraduate and the postgraduate. The presentation of subjects is also suitable for the interested non-professional reader, such as the staff officer, the works manager, and other representatives of management and the trade unions. A useful, if entirely American list of references, is given with most chapters.

No attempt has been made to oversimplify the subject. Some readers, particularly the non-professional ones, may be critical and at times confused by the repeated comparison of an accident with a disease.

The point is made that the physician should keep accident prevention constantly in mind, using his special position as an adviser to influence others. Prevention is also stressed as a responsibility of each individual, and succeeding chapters illustrate, in places very graphically, how each person, whatever his age or calling, can actively help to decrease accidents in the home, during leisure hours, in the street, or in the factory. In chapter 3 (The Epidemiology of Accidents) Dr. Ross McFarland reminds the reader that accidents are a leading cause of death, and a primary one up to the age of 35. The use of the word epidemiology is itself an indication of the vast scale of the problem.