incriminating other metabolic products, however well constructed, now becomes irrelevant.

The author, who is the Medical Officer of the Clayton Aniline Company and Ciba Clayton, Ltd., has much experience with the clinical side of the problem on which his views seem sound and authoritative.

It is interesting to learn that the first sign of intoxication by aromatic amines is often euphoria; that methaemoglobinemia due to acute exposure is readily cleared up by intravenous injections of methylene blue, and that cytoblastosis is the preferential diagnostic and screening method for bladder cancer (though it fails in cases of recurrent tumours), the prognosis for which is always bad.

Much space, including photographs, is given to illustrate how the replacement of manual methods by automatic machines in modern factories can reduce the exposure of workers to dangerous chemicals. The author is alive to the fact that reduction of massive exposure preventing acute intoxication does not eliminate the danger of tumours which may follow occasional exposures to even small amounts of carcinogens. In view of the long latent period (10 to 20 years) between exposure and the onset of bladder cancer, the preventive measures adopted in modern factories can, as yet, not be evaluated.

The only safe way to prevent tumours in workers in industry is to introduce chemical processes which do not include handling of carcinogenic materials. The replacement of beta-naphthylamine by beta-naphthol and subsequent amination (p. 63) is an example of what can be done in this field in the manufacture of dyestuffs. In the meantime, the author rightly advocates the employment of workers over 40 years of age and as few as possible on jobs in which there is a risk of exposure to carcinogenic amines. This sound principle should be followed in all industries dealing with carcinogenic materials, whatever their type.

The book is well produced and only a few printing errors were noted. The name of Natanson is misspelled in the text. Some judicious pruning would have made easier reading of this monograph on bladder cancer, which should be of value to industrial administrators and medical officers.

R. Schoental


This short book is based on a series of lectures given by the author at the University of Chicago toward the end of 1961. It sets out to discuss the biological principles on which radiation protection is based.

The first chapter entitled Radiation and the Facts of Life deals fairly shortly with the effects of radiation on cells. Refreshingly, the reader is not taken through atomic structure and cell division, but the advances resulting from recent developments in chromosome cytology are clearly explained. Chapter 2 is called Cancer, Leukemia, and Longevity. The fact that the natural ageing processes are considered first is typical of this book, wherein radiobiological processes are considered not in a narrow context but against the wide background of biological processes as a whole. This approach greatly adds to the interest of the book. The final chapter is an account of current knowledge of the metabolism of strontium 90, but no attempt is made to translate the findings into the possibility of any radiotoxic effects.

A book published under these circumstances is likely to have a very short useful life unless it is to be kept under constant revision. For an industrial medical officer prepared to read and ponder over it, this book will provide source material on which he can base his advice to persons concerned with radiation hazards. He will not find ready-made answers, but he will get an insight into some of the biological complexities of these problems and incidentally may be introduced to advances in our knowledge of many physiological and pathological processes. All this is presented in a readable way, interspersed with the whimsical comments one would anticipate from the title page.

W. R. Lee


This work is an interesting combination of the ideas of an epidemiologist and a social anthropologist. It is essentially theoretical and academic in approach. The material is in two parts: the first five chapters discuss the significance of demographic studies, the effects of social and cultural environments on individuals and groups, and the medical significance of the division of industrial society into social classes. The second part, of four chapters, concentrates on the contemporary family in Great Britain from infancy to "the phase of replacement". The importance of the personal and social environment in the problems of individual patients is emphasized.

Although the book is modestly described as an introduction to the subject, it summarizes a great deal of published material in a very readable form. An extensive bibliography and a good index are provided.

It is important in a work of this kind that there should be a sound underlying philosophy and some of the references quoted are of little illustrative value and might perhaps have been omitted. Thus in the section on Medical Bureaucracies two single separate cases are quoted on page 166; single cases do not always form good illustrations of a principle, and both of these are somewhat unsympathetic to the idea of medical bureaucracy. Some sections of the book are written very sympathetically, others less so, which makes the whole a little unbalanced in approach.

On page 34 appears the surprising sentence, "The doctor (in industry) is bound to accommodate his professional values, his concept of health, and his criteria of what constitutes illness, to . . . social pressures and the demands of his employers". It is to be hoped that this anachronistic idea will be removed from the next edition.

Apart from these few criticisms, the authors are to be congratulated on having compressed so much of a rather vague and diffuse subject into this compact and readable book. There is good reading for all doctors who would like to keep their sociology up to date, and interesting comments, something to learn, and some-