BOOK REVIEWS

Milk Hygiene is sub-titled Hygiene in Milk Production, Processing and Distribution, and its 37 distinguished contributors attempt to cover this wide field from a practical point of view. That this is an urgent problem is emphasized by the estimate in the final chapter that a new milk plant, with a capacity of 100,000 litres per day, should be opened every two weeks for the next 10 years in the underdeveloped countries just to provide the expected increase of 65 million in the child population with 0.25 litre/day each. The areas with the greatest need are just those where the problems of adequate milk production per animal, of prevention of contamination, and of preservation of milk until it can reach the consumer are greatest. Drawing on the experience of countries which have virtually eliminated the spread of milk-borne disease, the contributors make detailed proposals for organizing efficient and safe milk production under various environmental conditions. Their reminder of the importance of the education and training of milk handlers is timely, even for a country such as Great Britain.

J. Leeson


Dr. Cyriax, physician to the Department of Physical Medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital, needs no introduction, nor should this book as it is now in its fourth edition.

The book is of great interest to all who practise medicine even though some may disagree with some of his deductions.

The chapter on referred pain is clear and concise, and a knowledge of it, as is forcibly pointed out, gives the only chance of accurate diagnosis in many unfortunate people who are labelled anything from ‘arthritic’ to ‘neurotic’, both equally damaging to the patient and in the long run to the doctor.

Dr. Cyriax’s plea for an open-minded approach is an attitude about which many doctors might learn much from their scientific colleagues.

My only major criticism of this book concerns the chapter on psychogenic pain, undoubtedly because it is an ‘extra’. I find it quite impossible, with the majority of patients, to divide people suffering from pain into physical or psychogenic, and this is the impression given by this chapter, though I doubt that this is Dr. Cyriax’s intention.

There are some very scathing words written about intermittent mis-directed prolonged physiotherapy and also medico-legal problems with which the reviewer completely agrees.

The book is easy to read, the diagrams are clear, and the paper has not got the glossy finish so tiring to the eyes.

J. R. Burrows


In this country, at least, many workers in the field of occupational hygiene have not had the opportunity to undergo formal instruction in their subject and yet may be called upon to carry out environmental determinations of a wide range of substances. Nor is the task of literature study made easy, for many of the standard textbooks devote but little space to detailed descriptions of air sampling equipment, and articles dealing with this aspect are scattered throughout a very wide range of publications.

There should, therefore, be a warm welcome for the volume which is the subject of this review. In a series of five introductory papers the principles of air sampling are reviewed under the headings of:- Air sampling and analysis for contaminants; aerosol sampling and the importance of particle size; home-made instruments; calibration of air sampling instruments; and factors affecting the selection of an air sampling method. The main body of the book is occupied with reviews of specific types of instruments ranging from air movers and filter media through electrostatic and thermal precipitators to direct reading colorimetric devices and physical instrumentation. Each review takes the form of an introductory technical section in which the inherent capabilities, sensitivities, advantages, and limitations of the particular methods are discussed, followed by descriptions of current instruments, supplied by the manufacturers. The majority of the instruments described are manufactured in the U.S.A., but the increased availability of these products in this country makes this less of a disadvantage than would have been the case a few years ago. Indeed it is a sign of the development of occupational hygiene in this country that more of our own manufacturers are now becoming interested in meeting demands for air sampling equipment.

D. E. Hickish


In view of the recent appearance in this country of the first report on Safety, Health and Welfare in Agriculture it is opportune to see this short booklet which is the report of a joint I.L.O./W.H.O. Committee on Occupational Health Problems in Agriculture. The subject is considered under four headings.

Public Health Problems related to agricultural work embrace housing conditions, water, and sewage disposal. Specific problems include the economic situation of the agricultural worker in the community and the economic vulnerability of those workers to the caprice of the weather. Accidents on the farm are considered under the heading of Public Health Problems. It is noted that accidents are a leading cause of death and disability.

Toxic Hazards are a relatively new problem to agriculture and have attracted a good deal of attention and legislation. But to keep this in perspective it is pointed out that in the U.K. and U.S.A., at least, accidents from mechanical equipment far outnumber those from poisoning (nevertheless ‘Toxic Hazards’ occupies nine pages of the report, compared with one and a half devoted to farm accidents). Much trouble seems to stem