Committee exists primarily for this very purpose.] The responsibility is not confined to research workers. The statement makes clear the Council's view that unless the appropriate requirements have been fulfilled, no paper should be accepted by any journal for publication.

The report emphasizes that it is the collective duty of the medical profession to see that the confidence which the public rightly has in those who carry out investigations on human subjects is maintained. The highest ethical scrutiny and self-discipline should be exercised by those who carry them out; mistaken or misunderstood investigations could do incalculable harm to medical progress.

T. S. SCOTT

Chest Diseases. By Kenneth M. A. Perry and Sir Thomas Holmes Sellors. Two Volumes. (Vol. I, Pp. 601; Vol. 2, Pp. 700; £12 12s.) London: Butterworth. 1963. This is the successor to the well-known book published in 1952 and edited by Marshall and Perry. In this new version the editorship is shared by physician and surgeon, which no doubt accounts for the surgical aspects of diseases of the chest being given their due weight. The book is in two volumes totalling some 1,300 pages, and there are 24 contributors. Reproductions are of a high standard, chapter bibliographies are comprehensive, and the index is good.

Volume I deals with the anatomy, physiology, radiology, and physiotherapy of the chest and the diseases of the thoracic confines and the contents other than the lungs. Volume II deals mainly with disorders of the lung parenchyma. While the general standard of the book is very good with authoritative, well written accounts of the various diseases, there are two major criticisms that can be levelled.

First, the chapters are organized so that the tracheobronchial tree is dealt with largely in one volume and the lung parenchyma and its diseases largely in the other.

The dislocation has unfortunate results; for example, the account of chronic bronchitis deals comprehensively with its epidemiology and pathology but the major significance of this condition, i.e., the disturbed bronchial physiology which may develop, is discussed in seven lines of meaningless phrases and without reference to the good account given in Volume II under the title of Emphysema.

The accounts of pulmonary physiology in Volume I and of Emphysema in Volume II are very good, and it is a pity that some of the descriptions of disordered physiology included in other chapters are not of the same standard.

Volume I contains a chapter of some 80 pages on Occupational Lung Diseases. This presents a readable account of the subject with extensive bibliographies; it will be of interest and value to the general physician, for whom, presumably, it is written. Its value would have been extended if specialists had been invited to contribute on some of the topics.

The rest of the book deals comprehensively with pulmonary diseases. Especially good is the account of pulmonary tuberculosis where physician and surgeon have combined their experience.

Apart from the already mentioned failure of the editors to ensure that the functional, anatomical, and pathological aspects of pulmonary disease are adequately integrated, and occasional factual errors, the book as a whole is of a high standard and will no doubt become the standard book of reference in chest diseases in this country for many years to come.

J. B. L. HOWELL


Many who have practised occupational hygiene have done so with the original Patty within arm's length. It offered much of the necessary information without overwhelming the reader with a mass of undigested toxicology and chemical information. The editors of the new edition of Patty have preserved this original concept. They have increased the contents and brought them up to date. They give more detailed information in the organic chemical field than was the case with the first edition.

The editing of any book consisting of major contributions by different authors presents difficulties. With some books of this nature the individual styles and approaches persist to such an extent that the contents would be more acceptable as a number of monographs. The editors here have avoided this. Wherever possible the information is presented in a similar form by all the authors so that the reader often does not notice any real difference between the different contributions. Theory is kept to a minimum, facts are presented simply and critically, and an adequate biography is provided for further reference if required.

These remarks in no way belittle the individual contributors. As is usual, those dealing with the inorganic materials show their normal skill in presenting what are probably the easiest sections of the book, in that adequate human experience and investigation have provided the necessary evidence. It is, of course, impossible to separate Kehoe and lead, and, as in the older edition, they have their separate section.

The authors of the sections dealing with organic compounds provide the most relevant information available on a very large number of substances. The authors devote considerable space to animal experimental work, almost certainly because of the very limited reporting of human experience. It is unfortunate that more papers are not published in which a complete absence of toxic effects is related to known exposures. In the absence of such human evidence, animal work is often quoted at some length. It would seem that reference to the effects produced in animals by gross dosage could be omitted and the space so released devoted to enlarging the final chapter on potential risks in specific industries. This criticism, however, is not so much directed at the volume under review as at a general tendency in this field of industrial toxicology.

The second edition of Patty is almost a necessity for people concerned with the relationship between industrial environment and disease. The reviewer and his colleagues have used it continually over the last
few months as the first, and often the last book, of reference. This review, therefore, is based not on reading the book but on using it.

E. King


The writing of history has many purposes, such as tracing a line of thought or series of ideas, studying the effects of circumstances on persons or situations, or studying the influences of a person or a group on the times in which they lived. Some history can justly be an interesting story giving pleasure and food for thought to the reader.

This new addition to the accounts of the progress of medicine traces the story of medicine from the Creation to the National Health Service. Obviously it has to be selective, and this requires an underlying idea or warp thread to run through the book. It also requires courage, courage to cut persons, places or events right out if they do not fit in. A brief reference, or, worse, a series of brief references, breaks the narrative and contributes little. Thus, we are told of Sir Charles Bell:

'A great surgeon of this period was Sir Charles Bell (1774-1842), whose discoveries are rated next to Harvey's in importance. He confined his researches to the nervous system and carried considerably further some of Galen's original ideas.'

Industrial physicians will turn to the chapter on 'Victorian Medicine' and will be disappointed to find a number of misleading statements. Students of industrial medicine would be advised not to learn their history from these pages.

This book is well produced. It is profuselyillustrated and is printed in clear type. Although in places the writing is a little stilted, there is a deal of interesting information. It is a handy little book which can be dipped into but should not be regarded as authoritative.

W. R. Lee


The existence of vanadium has been known since the early years of the nineteenth century, but it was not until 1869 that it was isolated in the metallic state. It has held the interest of chemists and metallurgists for a long time. Recently there has been a quickening and widening of interest in it, by biologists and pharmacologists, because of its presence in trace amounts in many plant and animal tissues, and by doctors and others engaged in preventive medicine because of its being increasingly encountered in industry. This book, telling the fascinating story of vanadium from the medical viewpoint, is therefore timely.

Although it cannot as yet be accepted as essential to plant and animal life, vanadium certainly profoundly influences several important processes, including the metabolism of sulphur and cholesterol. Its various actions are described, and these include, for example, its effects on liver function, the lowering of the cystine content of the hair and nails, the depression of cholesterol synthesis, and mobilization of cholesterol deposits.

As regards toxicity, vanadium is definitely poisonous, although the alarming descriptions of its ill effects given by earlier writers are not completely justified. It has, when inhaled, a marked inflammatory action on the entire respiratory tract. A variety of acute and subacute lesions can be produced, but no fibrinous changes or specific chronic lesions are described in the lungs. By whatever route of administration, however, vanadium is toxic to the liver and kidneys.

The concluding five chapters, almost half of the book, deal with the industrial sources of vanadium, its application to industry, the occupations which carry a health risk, the clinical effects, and prevention. The author considers that the present accepted level of 0.5 mg./m.3 as the maximum permissible concentration of vanadium pentoxide is too high, and that it should be lowered, probably to 0.1 mg./m.3.

This compact volume, like the others of the Elsevier Monographs of Industrial Toxic Agents, is excellently produced on fine quality paper and contains a good index. The author is medical adviser to the Imperial Smelting Corporation Ltd., and lecturer in Industrial Hygiene in the University of Bristol. He states that his intention to describe the toxicological aspects and to summarize our present knowledge of vanadium has led him to make excursions into various fields of study, such as botany, marine zoology, biochemistry, pharmacology, and metallurgy. The large number of references at the end of each chapter testifies to his diligence, and a helpful feature is the footnote on each right-hand page indicating where the appropriate references are to be found. The information is presented in an entirely palatable form, and one lays down the book with a pleasant feeling of having read something important and interesting, and with an appetite whetted for news of further advances in the uses and effects of vanadium.

A. Doig


The new edition of this standard introductory text on aerosols is enlarged by some 50 pages, and the number of references has increased by 37% to over 1,300. It is a valuable source of information and a good starting point for a search of the literature on any specific aspect of particle science.

About two-thirds of the book deals with the physics of aerosols, including sampling, and one-third with applied aspects among which is a 48-page chapter on health hazards. After a brief introduction to the pneumoconioses, inhalation of dust, and particle size, there are sections on maximum permissible concentration, sampling methods and measurement of surface area and mass of particles. Individual protection is reviewed, and an account is given of the testing of respirator filters. Radioactive particles, microbial aerosols, and tobacco smoke