National Coal Board has made great efforts to control the production of dust and one can say, with due respect to the warning, that these statistics show some evidence that these efforts are successful. On the other hand, in some of the other industries, such as asbestos working, there is not only an increased awareness but a suspicion of a real increase.

CHARLES L. SUTHERLAND

Shift Work and Health. By Anthon Aanonsen. (Pp. 96; N. kr. 30.00.) Norwegian Universities Press. 1964.

The recent Norwegian studies on shift work and health are well known, but unfortunately there have only been a few disconnected accounts for English-speaking readers. This monograph presents a full report for the first time in the English language.

This is a very detailed and careful study of the workers at three factories in Odda in the south-west of Norway during 1948-53. There were 1,106 workmen, of whom 345 were day workers (either one shift or two shifts), 380 were shift workers (including the night shift), and 350 were former shift workers who had transferred to day shift for medical or other reasons (the separation of this group from day workers is an important distinction, not always made); in addition there was a small group of 31 who did not fit clearly into the main categories. As well as periodical medical examinations designed for this study, special examinations, including electrocardiography and haematology, were carried out in the final year together with inquiries into the attitude to shift work, sleeping patterns, and housing conditions. For the year 1952 detailed records of short and long term sickness absences were kept together with records of 'all the workmen's medical consultations with the medical practitioners in the district'. A supplementary study of sick leave and absences from work of 302 labourers in the age group 51 to 65 was made for the period 1939-51.

The results are presented in 69 tables which are discussed in the text (and which lie close to those parts of the text dealing with them). The author points out that his groups do not all have the same age structure, and he attempts to make allowance for this but without the more sophisticated statistical techniques which the British and American writers have come to accept almost as routine. Although this and other shortcomings may detract from the strength of some of the arguments (particularly those in section 9), the findings and the discussions still merit careful consideration. Any industrial medical officer who is concerned with the care of shift workers will find this monograph instructive and stimulating. Who does not pay lip service to the importance of adequate housing facilities for shift workers? Who explores this important factor during medical

examinations for shift workers? How well placed are we, as doctors, to advise on the suitability or otherwise of a man for shift work? How much do we *know* and how much is belief? This contribution takes us part of the way.

There are a few typographical errors on page 23; a figure and a column of print have been transposed, on page 26 the text and table do not tally exactly, and in table 68 there are some obvious misprints of numerals.

W. R. LEE

NOTICES

British Occupational Hygiene Society

The Second International Symposium on Inhaled Particles and Vapours will be held in Cambridge, September 28 to October 1, 1965.

Further particulars may be obtained from:

Dr. J. S. McLintock,
Medical Service, National Coal Board, Hobart House,
Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1.

The Italian Society of Occupational Medicine

The 28th Congress of the Society will take place in Naples from October 6 to 9, 1965. It will be opened at the University (Corso Umberto I°) on the afternoon of October 6.

Reports: Barotrauma in diving, by S. Caccuri, G. Fradà, M. Raso, D. Zannini; The industrial physician, by E. P. Vigliani.

On October 8 the members' meeting of the Mediterranean Society of Occupational Medicine will be held.

The Congress Committee will organize trips in Naples and its surroundings for those members and their wives attending the Congress.

President: Prof. S. Caccuri; General Secretary: Prof. T. Sessa, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Department of Medicine, Policlinico, Piazza Miraglia, University of Naples.

University of Manchester

A four-day course from September 13 to 16 inclusive, 1965, on Occupational Skin Problems has been organized jointly by the Departments of Occupational Health and Dermatology. It will be of interest to dermatologists, industrial medical officers, and examining medical practitioners. The number of places will be strictly limited. Fee £12. Applications should be made to the Secretary, Nuffield Department of Occupational Health, University of Manchester, Clinical Sciences Building, York Place, Manchester 13, from whom further particulars can be obtained.