Public Health and Social Services. 6th ed. By L. Farrer-Brown and M. Warren. (Pp. 166; 15s.) London: Arnold. 1965.

The appearance of the sixth edition of this useful little handbook is a testimony to its wide popularity. The balance of the subject matter reflects its primary purpose—a textbook for student midwives—but it is comprehensive in scope and can be recommended as a useful introduction for medical students, student health visitors, and industrial nurses, and indeed anyone who seeks a brief but reliable account of British health and welfare services.

Extensive revision has brought the subject matter up to date, but, as the authors remark, social legislation and provision is a continually evolving process. For future editions they might consider whether sufficient emphasis is given to such important matters as hospital social services and the developing field of social work in the community. Similarly, within the public health field refuse disposal receives three times the amount of space accorded to clean air—hardly a fair balance in relation to modern problems.

These are, however, relatively minor drawbacks, and the authors are to be congratulated on their concise and lucid work.

R. A. N. HITCHENS

Radiological Monitoring of the Environment. Edited by B. C. Godbold and J. K. Jones. (Pp. xvi + 425 illustrated. 110s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1965.

This volume records the proceedings of a symposium at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, in October 1963, organized by the Central Electricity Generating Board in association with the Joint Health Physics Committee. It is concerned mainly with environmental monitoring for both natural and artificial radioactivity, and the 27 papers presented at the symposium are reproduced in full in part I of the book. These papers had been circulated in advance to all participants, and part II comprises the authors' introductions of the three general papers which formed the foundation of the meeting, the presentations of three rapporteurs who dealt with the other 24 papers, and the ensuing discussions.

The titles of the three general papers are: Radioactivity in Agricultural Products and its Assessment by Environmental Survey; The Monitoring of Artificial Radioactivity in Waters round the British Isles; and Derived 'Maximum Permissible Levels' used in Neighbourhood and Working Environment Surveys. The subjects of the three rapporteur sessions are: Recent Advances in Monitoring for Air-borne Radioactivity; Current Practice in the Survey of Working Environments; and Current Practice in Neighbourhood Environmental Survey and Possible Alternatives Thereto.

Although the emphasis throughout is on the problems resulting from the operation of nuclear reactors and atomic energy establishments, considerable stress is also laid, especially in the second rapporteur session, on monitoring requirements for industry, hospitals, and research laboratories.

S. K. STEPHENSON

Current Medical Research. A reprint of the articles in the Report of the Medical Research Council October 1963—March 1965 (Cmd. 2787). (Pp. iv + 64; 4 figures, IV plates. 6s. 6d.) London: H.M.S.O. 1966.

This handy document describes in a little over 60 pages the advancing edge of medicine in the United Kingdom. It does not confine itself solely to work sponsored by the Medical Research Council, but it gives a balanced view of each field with which it deals. Computers, cancer, and colds take up about a third of the booklet; biological standards, child development in the tropics, and diurnal physiological rhythms, another third. The publication is completed by reference to advances in our knowledge of human efficiency under unpleasant conditions, and of accidents and the work of some of the Medical Research Council research establishments. Those selected for mention show where the emphasis lies in modern medical research. Psychiatry, epidemiology, and genetics are the three main fields, together with air pollution, cell metabolism, gastroenterology and blood groups. The work of the National Institute for Medical Research is briefly mentioned with its 40 different research projects, illustrated by examples of virus structure and mechanism, tissue storage and transplantation, protein synthesis, and body temperature control.

For someone who wishes to know what is going on in the main fields of British medical research this publication makes the most interesting reading.

R. C. BROWNE

Lehrbuch der Arbeitsmedizin, Band II, Spezielle Berufsgefährdungen und Schutzmassnahmen. (Textbook of Occupational Medicine. Volume II. Special Dangers of Occupations and Protective Measures.) By Franz Koelsch and Eugen Lederer. (Pp. xii + 651; No price stated.) Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke. 1966.

Eye trouble has forced Dr. Koelsch to obtain the assistance of Dr. Lederer in revising, for its 3rd edition, the second volume of his textbook. This volume presents the risk to health from accidents and disease, not only in occupations where notifiable diseases are met with, but in every occupation. Occupations are collected into groups ranging from Agriculture, Group 1, to Home Work, Group 28. Many occupations not usually thought of in connexion with industrial medicine find at least a mention: commercial travellers, for example, in the group of business and office work. On the other hand, many hazards prominent in present-day literature are placed in proportion to other hazards in the occupation. The reference to cadmium in the manufacture of alloys is simply 'the fumes of the recently much employed cadmium are intensely irritating'.

Each of the 28 groups comprises a number of industries often of different types. By far the greatest space is devoted to the chemical industry because of its scope and the variety and danger of the hazards incurred. In starting to discuss this group there is a remark that has a familiar ring, 'The most dangerous work could be carried out without much danger, if only the necessary technical and hygienic precautions were properly