but he will find himself translating, with increasing confidence, passages on the moon, Pavlov, and electronic calculating machines.

At twenty-five shillings, this clearly printed book offers a new world to the serious student. It would be a great help for those who use it by themselves if a key to the exercises and reading passages were available.

W. R. LEE

A Symposium on Skin Cleansing. Reprinted from *Transactions of St. John's Hospital Dermatological Society*, 1965, Vol. 51. (Pp. 126.) Sponsored by Deb Chemical Proprietaries Ltd., Belper, Derbyshire. Copies available free to Medical Officers, Safety Officers, Nursing Sisters, and Works Managers.

Sponsored by Deb Chemical Proprietaries Ltd., the symposium began with an introduction by Dr. Feiwel. Some nine papers were delivered and a variety of subjects relevant to skin cleansing were presented.

The chemistry and physical action of surfactants, the formulation of skin cleansers, the nature of detergents, the estimation of irritancy of detergents on the skin, and the evaluation of skin cleansers were some of the notable subjects. Dr. F. R. Bettley gave a résumé of his extensive research in the field of skin permeability and factors which modify this.

Such subjects as the penetration of electrolytes into the skin were discussed as well as the toxic nature of detergents containing effluents on river fish.

Isotope study of skin penetration and chemical consideration of the keratin proteins removed from the epidermis by washing were all discussed.

The discussion which took place under the Chairmanship of Professor C. D. Calnan was lively and informative, and all this is well recorded.

The list of those taking part includes factory medical officers, dermatologists, physicists, chemists, and biologists.

These transactions form a permanent record of a most well conceived symposium and a copy of the transactions will be referred to again and again by dermatologists and industrial medical officers alike for answers to problems of increasing efficiency and decreasing irritancy of skin cleansers.

M. GARRETT

Precautions for Laboratory Workers who Handle Carcinogenic Aromatic Amines. (Pp. 6; no price stated.) 1966.

This short pamphlet issued by the Chester Beatty Research Institute is based on a code of practice for laboratory workers which was adopted by the Harlow Industrial Health Service from the code recommended by the then Association of British Chemical Manufacturers for the manufacture and use of products causing tumour of the bladder (Scott and Williams, 1957).

Regulations, now in draft, are likely to be introduced to ban the manufacture, use, and importation of the most potent of the recognized bladder carcinogens and to control conditions under which other less potent or

suspected carcinogens are made and used, but it is not certain how far these regulations will apply to laboratory and research workers. The risk under laboratory conditions may usually be less than it is in industrial manufacture and use, and it might seem that the precautions required in the laboratory need to be less stringent. It is, however, essential that adequate precautions are taken wherever proved or suspected carcinogens are handled. For this reason alone the publication of this pamphlet is timely and welcome.

In it are listed those substances which are generally accepted as occupational causes of cancer of the bladder. In addition, certain other compounds not specified either in the draft regulations or in the Prescribed Disease No. 39 Regulation of the National Insurance Industrial Injuries Act are mentioned. It is perhaps unfortunate that the nitrosoamines and the nitrosophenols are included *in toto* in this specification. Although some members of these groups are rightly regarded as possible carcinogens, they are not of industrial importance and there is no real evidence that such commonly used compounds as diphenylnitrosamine, dinitrosopentamethylenehexamine or paranitrosophenol are likely to be carcinogenic. The recent report (*Sunday Times*, November 13, 1966) that bladder tumours have appeared as a possible occupational disease in ratcatchers and that alphanaphthylthiourea (ANTU) had been used for this purpose long after it should have been withdrawn justifies the inclusion of this potentially dangerous substance.

The booklet recommends that all persons likely to use these substances should be warned of the risk and told how to avoid it. Procedures for labelling, handling, protection, and decontamination in the event of accident or spillage are detailed. This Code of Practice should be in every laboratory where there is such a risk and in the hands of every person who is likely to be exposed to any compound known or suspected to be carcinogenic.

T. S. SCOTT

REFERENCE

Scott, T. S. and Williams, M. H. C. (1957). *Brit. J. industr. Med.*, **14**, 150.

A Short History of Public Health. 2nd edition. By C. Fraser Brockington. (Pp. vii + 240; 30s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1966.

Professor Fraser Brockington's book is both a short work of reference for students taking the diplomas of public health and social science, and the various nursing courses, and also an introduction to the subject for the general reader. The fact that it now appears in a second edition shows how useful it has proved. Naturally it is largely confined, apart from the first three short chapters, to the history of public health in Great Britain since about 1760, for, as someone once remarked, the peculiar genius of the British people in the modern era is 'an infinite capacity for making drains'. It must be said that, packed as it is with useful information and telling quotations, the book is remarkably good value for the money. Not only does Professor Fraser Brockington trace the growth of public sanitary services in the