Book Reviews

to the industrial situation, but the conclusion reached from the study of the effects of long-term oral or parenteral administration of drugs should not necessarily be accepted as applicable to manufacturers or users in industry where the main route of entry is by inhalation or skin absorption. Nevertheless, the methods of evaluation of a drug for carcinogenicity and the principles to be applied for its safe use are similar to the methods and principles which apply to the evaluation and use of a possible carcinogen in industry.

Much information lies hidden in the increasing mass of literature on the subject of carcinogenesis. This book is the result of an attempt to collect and present it in a form which can be examined and assessed by those who are not experts but who are interested in the subject. That it succeeds only partially is not the fault of the contributors or of the editor, Professor Truhaut. It stems from the fact that there is too much complicated material to be encompassed in a meeting of this type or duration, or in a book of this size. Nevertheless, the authors and the editor have succeeded in getting much into small bulk and in presenting it with a commendable degree of clarity.

T. S. Scott


This is the first book to be devoted to the particular problems discussed and the first book for more than 50 years to be published on aspects of caisson disease in compressed air workers. Since the classic works of Heller, Mager, and von Schröter and of Leonard Hill, the emphasis has been on the related, but nevertheless distinct, problems of aviation and diving. From these adjoining fields the medical practitioner has learned much which he has applied to the particular problems of the compressed air worker, and, in return, the present study of man working in compressed air continues the invaluable flow of ideas and knowledge to those in these separate but related fields. Thus this book can be regarded as indispensable for those concerned with the prevention and treatment of all types of decompression sickness.

It is important to recognize that decompression from raised environmental pressures is becoming increasingly common both from under the sea and from compressed air, both nationally and throughout the world. The person who has worked in compressed air or as a diver may appear in any surgery or clinic. Thus these topics are important to an increasing number of medical practitioners and, of course, to all concerned with industrial medicine.

The International Working Party was primarily concerned at this meeting with an assessment of the decompression procedures used by compressed air workers in different countries and, in particular, the prevention of decompression sickness in both its acute form and its delayed form—aesthetic necrosis of bone. This book forms the edited proceedings of this conference which was attended by a small number of selected experts representing nine countries, all actively engaged in work at raised environmental pressures. Thus, in a series of papers, the current views on decompression procedures and their physiological basis, the effectiveness of the different decompression tables, the manifestations of decompression sickness, their prevention and treatment are presented by each group in turn. From these detailed reports emerges a composite picture which shows very well the present state of knowledge as well as defining those areas in which more work is required, particularly if the crippling complications of caisson disease of bone are to be prevented.

A criticism that a considerable amount of the discussions, which are presented in a lively verbatim manner at the end of each chapter, could, for greater clarity, have been incorporated into the text or into a brief summary does not detract from the value of this book as a whole. There is no doubt that the publication of these proceedings is an important contribution to this and related fields and that the information presented at this conference should be studied by all who are concerned with this unique, challenging, and important aspect of occupational medicine.

D. H. Elliott


This book is one of the Practical Medicine Year Books in which detailed abstracts of the important papers in the international medico-scientific literature are made available to specialists in different fields. As in all such volumes, the importance of the editor’s selection of papers cannot be overemphasized. In this book there is a wide variety of abstracts in all three subjects of the title. Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery are grouped together, and there is a separate section on Plastic Surgery. From the point of view of a specialist in industrial medicine, the number of papers which could be regarded as having a direct bearing on his subject may not appear to be large. In the Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery section there are papers on the injuries produced by careless use of the high-pressure airless spray gun, on bone lesions in compressed air workers, with particular reference to the building of the Clyde Tunnels between 1953 and 1963 and on traumatic amputations. In the Plastic Surgery section there are a number of papers on the treatment of high-voltage electric and other types of burns, a paper on ‘the crushed finger’, and others on reconstruction after tendon injuries.

Apart from these, the book gives a very good review of the whole field covered, and the specialist in industrial medicine would find it useful to brush up his knowledge of many common disorders and some rare conditions;