premium, when increasing use is made of competing audio and visual media and programmed learning, these synoptic aids may have ever-increasing importance.

Two chapters are devoted to 'Communicable Diseases', one 'Bacterial', the other 'Viral and Others'. Although the diseases have been carefully selected, it is so easy to fall into the custom of repetition rather than to prune ruthlessly and with courage. Diphtheria, for example, has nearly five pages devoted to it. Does it warrant this attention, when less space is devoted to Health Education?

As in the first edition, the two chapters which interest me most are those on Medical Statistics and Epidemiology. The first deals very concisely with Vital Statistics, Medical Statistics and Demography, explaining each with an economy of words which is most commendable. Computers in Medicine are also explained in simple terms. In an otherwise excellent book, the section dealing with the epidemiology of non-infectious disease is, for me, the most disappointing. To quote:

'One of the more valuable developments in medicine in recent decades has been the application of epidemiological methods to the study of non-communicable disease. Unfortunately, this development has been hampered by a lamentable shortage of experienced epidemiologists, in part related to the inclusion of epidemiology in preventive medicine, a section of medical science which lacks finance and respectability. Epidemiological excursions, if we exclude publications of medical statistical department of General Register Office, or a few major undertakings such as investigation of link between smoking and cancer of lung, have, outside sphere of communicable disease, been of a somewhat limited nature.'

Two pages later, he adds as if in parenthesis,

'Outstanding uses of epidemiological method in study of non-communicable disease in recent years have been:

1. relation between smoking and lung cancer
2. relation of exposure to ionizing radiations to increased incidence of leukaemia in certain groups of persons
3. study of factors associated with increasing incidence of coronary heart disease.'

Most, if not all, of my colleagues in social and occupational medicine would take issue with this limited view of epidemiology. Having attended some four of five meetings of the International Epidemiological Association, one gets the firm impression that epidemiology of non-infectious disease has made greater strides than the author would admit, not least of this advance having been by the many epidemiologists from these islands, and in a variety of fields other than those three to which he refers above.

One final plea for the next edition. Could the differences and similarities in the organization of the National Health Services be amplified, by means of footnotes, for those in Scotland and Northern Ireland. As an external examiner in the National University of Ireland, I am certain my colleagues there would also strongly support this plea.

These few criticisms and suggestions apart, this book will find an important place in the required reading for both postgraduate and undergraduate students of Public Health and Social Medicine.

A MAIR


Do the basic medical sciences have a contribution to make to comfort, efficiency, and safety in the workplace? That the answer is 'yes', for extreme conditions of work, is the subject of a recent symposium (The Effects of Abnormal Physical Conditions at Work. C. N. Davies, P. R. Davis, and F. H. Tyrer. Livingstone, 1967). For industry as a whole, the position is less clear-cut, possibly because there is no obvious way in which the subject can be applied. Efficiency is by and large the province of engineers who are primarily concerned with physical plant; the dimensions and physical requirements of the operatives are usually subordinate. Safety is within the ambit of the Works Medical Officer, but has he the training to identify the contributory factors in the environment—for example, the levels of noise and illumination, the thermal environment, and the manner in which information is displayed? The interaction between these factors and the age, physical activity, and nutrition of the operative is the theme of this new text on ergonomics. The two volumes provide invaluable background information for physicians and others who intend working in industry, and they make a useful sequel to Dr. O. G. Edholm's recent small introduction to the subject (The Biology of Work. World University Library, 1967); for this purpose they should be acquired by libraries of industrial medicine, where they are likely to be referred to over many years. There is still a need for shorter texts, including more practical details. The present authors are also competent in this respect, as may be gauged from the cheap but comfortable front seats of the Renault 4 motor car; they have more to teach us than they have so far revealed!

J. E. COTES


This valuable booklet arises from a discussion on the equivalence of medical qualifications at the 39th session of the Executive Board of W.H.O. It is compiled on the basis of the replies given by 40 Member States to a questionnaire.

It provides a very clear and concise summary of the complex legal considerations which govern the admission of foreigner to medical practice in each of those countries. It is evident that several principles underlie the formulation of those laws. The most laudable of these is the desire to ensure that foreign-trained medical