The experienced hygienist will gain little from this book, and the learner should be forewarned of the uncritical treatment of sampling, and the limited treatment of analytical procedures. Occupational hygiene owes much to Morris Jacobs, and it is with regret that the reviewer cannot envisage this book taking the same position in our libraries as the earlier version did in its day.

E. KING

Occupational Mycotic Diseases of the Lung. By F. Kováts (sen.) and B. Bugyi. (Pp. 212; illustrated; 70s.) Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó. 1968.

In 1936 Dr. Kováts discovered the relation between the lung disease of paprika slicers and the inhalation of spores of *Schizomyces*. The authors have made a deep study of fungi which could be of importance in pulmonary disease. But they have not produced a balanced book: their conviction that nearly all diseases produced by the inhalation of vegetable dusts must have a fungal origin is emphasized throughout and often is at variance with generally accepted opinions today. For example, the statement that 'All authors agree in that the fungi occurring in the dust of cotton, hemp, flax, jute, sisal, etc. play some presumably decisive role in the induction of byssinosis' cannot be accepted, nor can the statement that 'Byssinosis greatly resembles the lung disease of harvesters, threshers, and farmer's lung in general'. On the other hand, the mummy disease, an occupational hazard of art historians and archaeologists opening Egyptian tombs and examining their contents, used 'to be regarded as the revenge of the mummies, as the effect of the curse on sacrilegious hands that interfered with their last sleep'. The present authors would rather consider it an occupational toxomycosis. Here they may be on stronger ground.

This book must be regarded as expressing a 'minority opinion'. But minority opinions should not go unheeded; often germs of truth lie disregarded within them, and the reader of this volume will find much to interest him. The clearly written section of Chapter 1 on the elements of mycology, the breadth of respiratory disease covered and, in some instances, the unusual aetiological theories all make it worthy of study. Unfortunately there are some errors of fact: for instance, Roach and Schilling are quoted as advocating a maximum allowable concentration for cotton dust of 250 mg./m.³, a figure one hundred times too great. There are no references after 1962, and most are much older.

Although this volume cannot be recommended as a text on occupational lung disease it has more to favour it as a monograph dealing with one aspect of causation.

C. B. MCKERROW

Dust Sampling in Mines. Occupational Safety and Health Series, No. 9. (Pp. 88; free.) Geneva: International Labour Office. 1967.

In occupational hygiene it is airborne dust sampling which requires the greatest technical expertise. This is partly due to the inherent difficulties of evaluating a mixture consisting of particles of different physical size and chemical composition. However, it is also in large

part due to the extraordinary variety of available methods of dust sampling, the results from which seem to have little in common.

In this report some 35 important dust sampling instruments are described together with the methods for evaluation of the samples obtained. A brief comparison is made between them with the inevitable conclusion that an air quality standard has no significance unless the equipment and methods are closely specified.

The maximum permissible concentrations of mine dusts which are in operation in 17 countries are described and compared. Each country naturally favours its own method of sampling and the M.P.C.s are therefore not strictly comparable.

A proposal is made for some standardization by the adoption of a common dust sampling method. The method proposed is gross gravimetric sampling on the grounds of its undoubted simplicity and its fairly good correspondence with other methods. The author of the report is from Belgium where routine control of dust concentrations is provided by gross gravimetric sampling. This report is not well produced and many of the diagrams are undecipherable. However, it does collect together in one place a bibliography of 152 references on dust sampling in mines, which is a useful guide for further reading.

S. A. ROACH

The Prevention and Suppression of Dust in Mining, Tunnelling and Quarrying. Third International Report 1958-1962. (Pp. 531; free.) Geneva: International Labour Office. 1966.

This report is a more or less systematic summary of 32 national reports on the airborne dust problems in mines, quarries, and tunnels covering the period 1958-62. The material is very uneven; some countries give numerous hard statistics whereas others make only a few general observations. Also the number of undertakings in different countries varies enormously. It appears, for example, that Niger boasts only one quarry whereas France has some 50,000.

The pneumoconiosis statistics make interesting reading although their value for comparing the risks experienced in different countries is rather limited. The number of cases found depends very much on the manner of selection of the people examined and on the particular diagnostic criteria used. In South Africa the number of people with pneumoconiosis in mining occupations is effectively reduced by the simple rule that 'no Bantu person with pneumoconiosis is allowed to remain at work'.

Doubtful explanations for some of the trends are given. In Canada the sharp decline in silicosis prevalence is 'not only coincident with the institution of aluminium powder but is the direct result of this measure'. In Czechoslovakia 'An atomiser has been developed for mass inhalation cures'.

The section on research is concerned more with indicating the type of investigations in progress than with describing specific results.

General ventilation and wetting of the minerals are the principal means of successful dust control. The