Book reviews

Industrial Hygiene Highlights. Volume 1. Edited by Lester V. Cralley, Lewis J. Cralley, and George D. Clayton. (Pp. 381; \$20) Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America, 5231 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15232. 1968.

This volume has the limited objective of 'highlighting' new developments and findings in the field of industrial hygiene. It consists of a number of review articles which, unlike so many of the uncritical reviews of subjects in the scientific press, give reasoned, expert opinions on the current (1966/67) understandings of the subjects. Some chapters, particularly that on noise, give essentially American viewpoints which may not be wholly applicable to the British scene. Others, notably those dealing with analysis and toxicology, suffer from having subjects too broad for satisfactory review. Those on radiation, both ionizing and non-ionizing, hot environments, ergonomics, and air pollution are excellent.

Industrial Hygiene Highlights will be a valuable addition to the library of those who wish to keep abreast of trans-atlantic thought, and should be bought as such, rather than as a textbook on the subject.

E. KING

Industrial Dermatoses and the Industrial Injuries Act. By J. T. Ingram. (Pp. 42; 10s.) London: Churchill. 1968.

The area of occupational medicine represented by industrial dermatitis and its fair assessment for disability pension is usually regarded as being difficult. It is therefore particularly welcome to find a monograph devoted to the subject written by a leading dermatologist who is moreover versed in this particular aspect of the law.

The first few chapters deal with the legal mechanisms and procedures under the Industrial Injuries Act. They explain the duties of Medical Boards and of Medical Appeal Tribunals. Such difficult legal conceptions as 'aggravation', 'recrudescence', and 'relevance' are explained and illustrated by clinical case histories.

A chapter of great interest to the doctor in industry deals with the clinical entity, 'Non-infective Dermatitis of External Origin (P.D. 42)'. This eczematous dermatitis is described as 'a catarrhal condition of the skin' which is dependent on two factors – constitutional predisposition and an external factor. It is held to be significant that the

majority of the patients start with the affection between the ages of 45 and 55 – the age of many physiological changes. It also means that at this age the worker has been subjected to the wear and tear of the industrial hazard often for 20 years or more.

Mention is made of two special types of industrial dermatitis – gross traumatic dermatitis caused by very strong irritants, and allergic contact dermatitis, a specific skin reaction to a particular substance to which the patient becomes sensitized. It is emphasized that the constitutionally eczematous subject is not more liable to this type of disease than are other people.

A short chapter deals with management, diagnosis, and treatment. A plea is made for early and expert diagnosis and that treatment should be carried out in hospital centres. While agreeing with most of these recommendations, many doctors working in industry will hesitate to accept this advice *in toto* since many patients treated while still at work (albeit on a different job) do very well, largely no doubt because they are spared financial anxiety, which the author stresses as an important factor in perpetuating the disease.

R. E. LANE

1967 Evaluations of Some Pesticide Residues in Food. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO/PL: 1967/M/11/1. (Pp. 242; no price stated.) World Health Organization, WHO/Food Add./68.30. Rome. 1968.

This joint publication of F.A.O. and W.H.O. consists of a series of data on pesticide residues. The following compounds are reviewed: aldrin, carbaryl, carbon disulfide, carbon tetrachloride, chlordane, DDT, demeton, diazinon, dichlorvos, dieldrin, dimethoate, diphenyl, endosulfan, ethylene dibromide, ethylene dichloride, ferbam, heptachlor, hydrogen phosphide, lindane, malathion, mancozeb, maneb, methyl bromide, MGK 264, organomercury compounds, oxydemeton-methyl, parathion, piperonyl butoxide, pyrethrin, thiram, zineb, and ziram. The reviews will be of particular interest to those concerned with hazards to consumers arising from the use of pesticides in production and protection of food.

For each compound an evaluation of acceptable daily intakes, tolerances, and methods for residue analysis are given, followed by a list of references. In some instances toxicological evaluations and diet studies are included in