book as a basic guide in preparing a paper and, provided the interest of the patient comes uppermost, there is an enormous epidemiological field open for the benefit of everyone.

P. M. O. MASSEY

Air Sampling Instruments. For Evaluation of Atmospheric Contaminants. In sections; (£10.0.0.) American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, 1014 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202, U.S.A. 1967.

The British occupational hygienists are currently preparing a directory of the air sampling instruments in general use in this country. The publication of this 1966 edition of the A.C.G.I.H. directory may well make them envious; it emphasizes the availability of 'hardware' in the United States, hardware not necessarily better in performance but greater in variety.

The first section of *Air Sampling Instruments* deals with the principles of sampling and instrumentation, two very valuable sections. They are followed by the lists of instruments divided according to type, each instrument being illustrated, described, and commented upon. Inevitably there is a compromise between manufacturers' opinions and field experience, and, very occasionally, this shows. It is encouraging to see so many old friends from the British stables prominent in the lists.

In practice, the choice of sampling instruments follows a consensus opinion of the hygienists concerned, be it a given field or country, and while this volume is sufficiently inexpensive to find a place on every hygienist's bookshelf, it should be there as a reference book, and not as a buyer's guide. For the latter purpose, for this country, the British directory, when it appears, may be of value despite its limited size and presentation.

E. KING

The Control of Indoor Climate. By T. C. Angus. International Series of Monographs in Heating, Ventilation and Refrigeration. Vol. 4. (Pp. 110; 50s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1968.

This book is one of an International Series of Monographs (Editors – Billington and Owers) intended to extend the knowledge of persons with a general engineering background in special subjects relevant to heating and ventilation engineering. Dr. Angus, who will be known to many readers of this Journal for his work at the London School of Hygiene, states that his intention was to provoke an interest in the standards for thermal comfort, their measurement, and their attainment through the use of modern appliances, rather than to provide a designers' textbook. The consequence is a rather superficial and selective review of the field. There is a serious lapse in proof reading on page 35 which has resulted in reference to a pulse rate of 215 'points' and to a rectal temperature of 125°F. (51.7°C.) as possible physiological criteria for the assessment of heat stress. The serious student to whom this series appears to be

aimed would prefer initially to read a fuller treatment of the topic, as is available in previously published works.

D. TURNER

Absenteeism – Causes and Control. By P. J. Taylor. (Pp. 30; 7s. 6d.) London: Industrial Society. 1969.

Sickness absenteeism is topical and the Industrial Society has done well to produce this excellent booklet on the subject. It sets out to explain the forms and causes of absence from work and the factors that affect it. It then considers the practical problem of reducing absenteeism – what actions the manager can take to reduce the present absence rate and what climate he should try to establish to reduce the future problem. There are many specific examples of situations that have existed in companies and the ways in which they were handled.

The technical information on definitions and measurements and the methods of collecting absence rates is accurate and clearly presented. The section on factors affecting absence is comprehensive, helping the uninitiated in matters of sickness absence measurement from ignoring influences other than sickness which may invalidate comparisons between groups. The sections on the control of sickness absence would be particularly valuable to managers who wished to tackle the problem of sickness absence with some hope of success.

This is a booklet which any industrial medical officer can recommend to any management which is interested in understanding and controlling absenteeism.

P. A. B. RAFFLE

General Principles of Monitoring for Radiation Protection of Workers. A Report by Committee 4 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. ICRP Publication 12. (Pp. 24; 15s.) London: Pergamon Press. 1969.

This is a report of a Task Group of one of the standing committees of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (Committee 4). The terms of reference of the Group were to prepare a report on the principles of monitoring for radiation protection of workers. It was to include monitoring of workplaces, personal monitoring, and the relationship between the two. It should be read in conjunction with a number of the main recommendations of the Commission (ICRP Publication 9, 1966).

It covers the field in a comprehensive manner and will be a useful document for all those embarking on work in the field of radiological protection. It points out at the beginning that, like its more general parent, occupational hygiene, the principal aim of radiological protection is the achievement and maintenance of safe and satisfactory working conditions. Measurements are of great importance in any radiological protection programme because they help both to achieve safe conditions and to assist in demonstrating that safety has been achieved.

The booklet discusses the objectives of the design of programmes for the monitoring of workplaces for external radiation, surface contamination, and air contamination