The Human Side of Heart Illness (Pp. 92; 18s.) London: The Chest and Heart Association, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1. 1970.

This small monograph of 92 pages contains the papers read at a two-day conference held in London in March 1970 and one must congratulate the Chest and Heart Association on such an immediate publication. A wide range of topics was covered and at times I wondered for whom the monograph was meant, but there is enough in it to interest industrial medical officers.

Many of the papers give advice on how to rehabilitate patients who have had a coronary thrombosis. On the other hand, mixed with this advice, there are some short accounts for the lay person of the pathology of coronary thrombosis and its predisposing factors. Some of these attempts at a simple explanation of the pathology of coronary disease are not satisfactory and it would have been much better to have given a straightforward account of the pathology which can now be understood by any lay person who is intelligent enough to want to know about the subject.

Some of the advice with regard to exercise sounds a little too vigorous for me and I have the feeling that many non-cardiac patients would have difficulty in keeping up with the sort of physical effort recommended. The problems facing people doing heavy manual labour and who have angina are discussed, and we know that solutions to this problem are extremely difficult. The advice given by the Medical Officer to the British Leyland Motor Corporation seems very helpful but, on the other hand, this sort of advice can only be carried out in large-scale industry and I can see difficulties in smaller factories.

Dr. Sinclair's account of the dietary factors concerned with coronary thrombosis is extremely valuable, although I would not be so dogmatic as to say that 'coronary thrombosis is linked primarily to the types of fats we eat'. There is a very good account of the problems facing patients with heart disease who have to make air journeys, and this account will help in advising such patients. On the other hand, the short notes by Dr. Breckenridge on 'Hypertension in 1970' and by Dr. Oakley on 'What Research Promises the Heart Patient' seem a little superfluous in this particular volume.

If the industrial medical officer so desires, this book can easily be read in an evening and I think the effort is worth while.

S. OLEESKY

Proceedings of the 11th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Automotive Medicine. Edited by Arthur H. Keeney. (Pp. 298; illustrated; \$19.75.) Illinois: Thomas. 1970.

The disadvantage of publishing the proceedings of annual meetings is the delay in publication. The 11th Meeting was held in 1967. It follows that much of the material has been published elsewhere or has been superseded by later investigation.

Twenty-three papers are presented. The contributors

include most of the well-known names in transport medicine in North America. The main topics covered are alcohol as a factor in the causation of road crashes, the effectiveness of medical examinations in reducing road crashes, the use of simulators in assessing driving capability and the emergency care of crash victims.

The quality of the contributions varies considerably. Some give well-written accounts of carefully planned scientific experiments. Others can only be considered a list of platitudes not based on evidence. A particularly interesting paper shows that, by toughening laminated glass in order to reduce the incidence of severe facial lacerations when the occupants of the front seat of a car are thrown against the windscreen, the risk of severe cervical spinal injury is greatly increased.

This is a volume for the bookshelves of those with a direct interest in transport medicine. It would not be of much interest to the general reader.

P. A. B. RAFFLE

Arbeitshygienische Information Bauwesen. Report of the Conference of the Sections of Building and of Chemistry of the Department of Occupational Hygiene and Safety of the Republic of East Germany held on May 28-30 1968 in Halle.

Ergonomische Berichte. Report of an International Symposium on Occupational Hygiene and Safety in the Building Industry held at Eisenach (E. Germany) in October 1968. (Pp. 492; illustrated; no price stated.) Ministry of Building Construction of East Germany, 1969.

These two publications are issued by the Scientific and Technical Centre for Safety, of the Ministry of Building Construction of East Germany. The former is a symposium on the subject of synthetic materials in use in the building industry with many papers devoted to epoxy resins and hardeners. A wide range of uses of the materials is covered and the methods of manufacture and processing are detailed. Dermatological effects of contact with polyesters and essential precautions necessary in manufacture are dealt with in detail.

The Ergonomics Report is a substantial volume covering the proceedings of a five-day international meeting under four main headings:

1. International development of occupational medicine and safety in the building industry
2. Epidemiology, prophylaxis, and rehabilitation of occupational dermatoses in building trades
3. Aptitude and suitability for work in the building trades
4. Ergonomics in mobile construction machinery.

The contributors under each heading include representatives from France, the U.S.S.R., Switzerland, and Yugoslavia as well as East and West Germany.

The main limitation of both volumes as works of reference is the absence of a summary of each paper and/or an English translation.

G. C. FLETCHER