survivorship, though both assume an appreciable knowledge of statistics.

The book provides a broad-brush outline of current applications of data processing methods in large-scale surveys, but some of the chapters detailing actual experience require careful reading to distill the principles involved. This volume will usefully fill a gap on epidemiologists' bookshelves and be of interest to many others concerned with medical surveys.

M. R. ALDERSON

Chemical Influences on Behaviour. Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 35. Edited by Ruth Porter and Joan Birch. (Pp. 221; £1.75.) London: Churchill. 1970.

One of the many aspects of environmental health that has recently become a matter of concern is the effect that changes in our chemical environment may have on our mental health or behaviour. Industrial medical officers will remember madness in hatters and, more recently, difficulties in the dry cleaning industry. Otherwise acute and long-term disorders of behaviour in relation to industrial chemical hazards have not often been recognized.

For this study group some 20 experts in toxicology, behavioural science, psychopharmacology, and the screening of new drugs and chemicals discussed this problem for two days. Each member of the group presented some aspect of the problem from his own point of view often backed by detailed experimental results.

Each paper is followed by a discussion and there is further general discussion at the end of the meeting. Some of the contributions are lucid and highly informative, particularly those of Harris on inherited susceptibility to environmental hazards, and Dr. Steinberg's description of her experiments with amphetamines. Although interesting and in some instances thought-provoking, the work of the experimental behavioural scientists is so hedged about with jargon as to be difficult to understand. It is also apparent that this approach to the detection of chemical effects on behaviour is as yet in its infancy and it would be unreasonable to expect any reliable or useful results to emerge from this kind of work for some years to come.

This is a book to browse through as a source of ideas, sometimes of worrying ideas (the effect of too much hygiene on the role of olfactory agencies in reproductive physiology, the effect of prolonged exposure to a low concentration of insecticides, and the effect of diet and urinary pH on the rate of clearance of toxic substances by the kidneys, for instance). But it is a book which raises more questions than it answers. Perhaps it will inspire further and more useful work in this field. I hope not all future work will be so elaborate (and presumably costly) and yet so entirely inconclusive as the study described by Joyce on the effect of alcohol on making decisions.

P. C. ELMES

Will Pickles of Wensleydale. By John Pemberton. (Pp. 224; illustrated; £2.50.) London: Bles. 1970.

Anyone interested in the practice of medicine will be glad to read this book, with every aspect of medical practice in both Leeds and the pleasant dales of Yorkshire illustrated. Spanning over 100 years Dr. Pickles came from a medical family and was brought up with an accomplished father practising in an industrial practice in the heart of Leeds. His observations made on this style of practice are most vivid and the clink of medicine bottles can be imagined. After his training at Leeds University and a short career in the Royal Navy he resumed the endless round of locums before establishing himself as a partner in Wensleydale. The problem in those days, which to a large extent we have all forgotten, was not the ability to work with the existing partners of the practice but the ability to produce capital with which to buy a share. This was used to provide either a pension for the retiring doctor or his widow and was priced on its earning capacity like any other business.

There were the days of heroic domiciliary midwifery and no doubt a high mortality rate. There were table-top appendicectomies, though this appeared to be before the day tonsils were thought to be worth while removing. This type of medicine was practised as of necessity because transport did not allow patients to be shipped to hospital in heated ambulances over the efficient road networks we have come to accept today. A surgeon would come over 60 miles for a domiciliary consultation and always travel with his instruments to perform the operation on the spot should it be necessary.

There is a good picture of Dr. Pickles' eventual life in his country practice where the pace of living was much less than in a city. His knowledge of patients and their whereabouts, which at times caused embarrassing admissions, allowed him to start his work on epidemiology. By his astute observations and careful clinical notes, written up between evening surgery and supper, he was able to determine the precise behaviour of infective hepatitis, then known as catarrhal jaundice, to the incubation period and its signs. In addition he described epidemic pleurodynia simultaneously with a practitioner on Bornholm Island and showed the infective nature of this painful complaint. By these observations painstakingly recorded he eventually achieved world-wide recognition for his work and lectured on this subject with authority. It was fitting that he should become the first President of the Royal College of General Practitioners whose work is centred around the family doctor who holds a unique position with an individual to this day.

P. M. O. MASSEY

Work, Creativity and Social Justice. By Elliott Jaques. (Pp. 262; £2.50.) London: Heinemann. 1970.

Professor Elliott Jaques has worked with the Glacier Metal Company as a social-analytic consultant for over 20 years and the books he has written on the research projects with which he has been involved are well known. He has, since 1966, been Head of the School of Social Sciences at Brunel University. This volume is a collection