
Book reviews

The Occupational Health Nurse. Publication No. 23. Occupational Safety and Health Series. (Pp. 84; obtainable free of charge from the I.L.O. Occupational Safety Branch, CH. 1211, Geneva, 22.) Geneva: I.L.O. 1970.

(Being the proceedings of the Symposium on the training of Occupational Health Nurses held during the International Occupational Safety and Health Congress, Geneva, 30 June to 4 July 1969)

The introduction makes out a case for the care of health at work. Small and medium sized undertakings, it is said, cannot usually employ an industrial doctor but can employ a part or full time nurse. In most countries the occupational nurse has no recognized status, and facilities for training are limited.

The introduction is followed by an excellent paper by Miss V. Stoves on the scope and objectives of occupational health nursing. This is the core of the publication and is worth reading for this alone. Miss Stoves' paper begins by outlining the problems. She then asks what basic and advanced training should be available? Special courses for theoretical subjects, including sociology, administration, industrial law, industrial safety, and hygiene, are considered essential. It is also essential to do practical training work under the guidance of experienced occupational medical personnel. Too few practising occupational nurses have had formal training. Training is also recommended for auxiliary nurses and for first aiders. There is much about duties and responsibilities, as well as an excellent guide to treatment. Indeed, anyone preparing a job specification, which most firms seem to require these days, would find this paper very helpful.

It is impossible to summarize the section on existing training facilities in various countries, except to say that theoretically training aims are similar, but that most of the papers are wishful thoughts rather than descriptions of existing facilities.

One gets the impression that only a select few of the many nurses, nursing auxiliaries, health assistants, and others who are concerned with occupational health receive any training at all. There seems to be a big gap between what is ideally desirable and what is practically possible. It is, however, a very useful publication for those engaged in teaching occupational health and, in

particular, for those who train occupational health nurses.

G. O. HUGHES

Occupational Psychology. By Donald E. Super and Martin J. Bohn. (Pp. ix + 209; £1.75.) Behavioural Science in Industry Series. London: Tavistock Publications. 1971.

This excellent little book outlines all that a non-expert needs to know about the work of a psychologist in industry. There are chapters on individual differences and the difficulties of assessing them; on aptitude and personality in various occupations; and on vocational selection and guidance. There are also two chapters which cover the more recent work on careers and career development. A short list of books is given at the end for each chapter to help those who wish to go into particular topics in greater detail.

The book is well written, concise, and easy to read and understand. Current issues and trends are emphasized throughout. Of the 113 references listed at the end, almost half are from the 1960s.

E. C. POULTON

Principles of Medical Statistics, 9th edition. By A. Bradford Hill. (Pp. ix + 390; £1.25.) London: The Lancet. 1971.

The first edition of this textbook appeared in 1937; since then eight more editions, several reprintings, and Spanish, Russian, Korean, and Polish translations have been published. For 35 years this non-mathematical text has been an invaluable guide for medical research workers and others whose work entails a knowledge of the ways in which statistical methods can be applied validly to medical problems. Most of the journal's readers will be familiar with one or more editions—the eighth was reviewed in this journal (1966, **23**, 328). It is not necessary, therefore, to detail the book's contents. Instead, what follows highlights the major changes; these are largely confined to the later chapters.

Some of the examples, which were originally drawn from research current in the thirties, have been replaced by examples from more recent work. However, such changes have not been made merely for the sake of