master the theory of first-order linear differential equations. Those who are not will find little to help them; the treatment throughout is in terms of first-order processes. There is no attempt to follow up, for example, the work of Hartley (*J. theor. Biol.*, 5, 57, 1963) or of Gurpide, Mann, and Lieberman (*J. clin. Endocrinol.*, 23, 1155, 1963) which could lead to treatments requiring more elementary mathematics. For those with mathematical knowledge the treatment is inadequate. A small number of cases are treated in great detail; there is little mention of non-linear processes; and what there is, on lead, is not related to any fundamental processes at work. Contrary to the suggestion in 'Final Remarks', anyone would be better off using a book on tracer kinetics for the relevant mathematics. The use of the kinetics of metabolism after a single exposure to calculate the results of multiple exposure is theoretically sound but in practice dubious, owing to the difficulty of measuring all the rates after single exposure accurately enough.

The author does make the valid point that the assumptions underlying tracer and toxicological investigations are often different, even when the mathematics are identical, and the main value of the book lies in its discussion of the assumptions involved in the latter. He also brings together much data published only in central European languages and therefore rather inaccessible here.

D. F. HEATH

Four Architectural Movement Studies for the Wheel-chair and Ambulant Disabled. By F. Walter. (Pp. 60; illustrated; no price stated). The Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London, W.14. 1971.

The research in this report was commissioned by the Disabled Living Foundation. An architect was in charge and the aim was to establish a series of comprehensive planning recommendations which would embrace all horizontal space movement activities involved in the general design of buildings.

These have been achieved by carrying out four carefully designed studies:

- (a) the circulation of the disabled person in the chair between and around obstructions;
- (b) the same type of circulation through doorways, including opening and shutting the door from all four directions;
- (c) a ramp gradients study by disabled in wheelchairs; and
- (d) a study of disabled drivers and the various vehicles available, together with recommended garage sizes, parking spaces, and dimensions for U turns.

It is clearly divided into paragraphs, but there are no chapters and no index. Certainly, it is essential reading for architects, councils, or do-it-yourself enthusiasts about to alter or design a house for the disabled, but it covers only a small part of the problem; it does not, for example, cover the movements of a chair in a toilet or bathroom, but perhaps an architect could extrapolate from these figures. No summary or conclusions or recommendations for the future were given.

J. R. GLOVER

Society, Stress and Disease, Volume I. The Psychosocial Environment and Psychosomatic Diseases. Edited by Lennart Levi. (Pp. 485; 41 figs; £8.00.) London: Oxford University Press. 1971.

This volume reproduces the proceedings of 'An International Interdisciplinary Symposium' held in Stockholm in 1970 and sponsored jointly by the University of Uppsala and the World Health Organization. The editor is director of the Laboratory for Clinical Stress Research of the Karolinska Institute. Forty-four papers are grouped under six headings such as 'Review of Experimental, Clinical and Epidemiological Evidence concerning Psychiatric and Psychosomatic Diseases Provoked by Psychosocial Stresses' and 'Possible Ways of Modifying or Preventing Psychiatric and Psychosomatic Diseases through Social Action'.

The reader's heart will have sunk. Another conference transcript (though speedily produced), so many double-column pages, so many papers, so expensive. The terms are always so imprecise: 'psychosocial stresses', 'psychoneurotic overstrain', 'social action'. And, indeed, the final looking-to-the-future section daunts in just this way. Elsewhere, however, there is good straightforward stuff though rather heavily written for the most part.

Overall, contributors seem to have accepted the premise that there are diseases that can usefully be thought of as psychosomatic (where's the proof though? where's the use?) and, conversely, that environmental factors, 'semineurotic emotional patterns in our over-industrialized, competitive, sophisticated, cynical societies', have been convincingly shown to exert a causative influence via the brain or the mind. Those who know how thin is the evidence for this will not be surprised that theories exceed facts in this volume. Although many of the articles are detailed and particular, there are some good general ones which try to deal with the global concepts implied by the title.

It is useful to have these ideas brought together into a single volume. This is a good book to send to someone to consult in a not too distant library. There he may 'indulge the hope that human ingenuity will be able to forestall the apocalyptic finale before it is too late'.

NEIL KESSEL

Inhaled Particles. III. Edited by W. H. Walton (Two volumes; Pp. 1090; £15.) London: Unwin. 1971.

This neatly produced book in two volumes presents the proceedings of an international symposium organized by the British Occupational Hygiene Society in London from 14 to 23 September 1970. The symposium is the third instalment of a rather successful series held at five-yearly intervals. Over 200 authors from all over the world contributed to the 91 papers presented, which are arranged in 10 sections, four in volume 1 and six in volume 2. Many of the contributions have not been previously published.

The first section concerns the deposition of various particles into different parts of the ventilatory system under various conditions, and the second section, the clearance of these particles in health and in disease. Together, they comprise nearly one-third of all the