Fruition. The editor's introduction is both a *raison d'être* and a brief review of the main conceptions and influences in medical thought over the 2 500 years covered; competent but necessarily superficial; a worthwhile introduction to the topic for the undergraduate student and general reader. There is an index and a guide to further reading.

Does this book serve the purpose of the History of Science Readings series to which it belongs? The works reproduced are easily available in original English or in translation. Most are well known. Editing has been confined to selection of excerpts—though these are well chosen so that the marshalled writings fulfil well the author's intentions. Inevitably there have had to be important omissions—Mead and Sir George Baker, for example; but most of the authors are included on merit. Nevertheless, another edition could have made a greatly different selection—a reflection of the numbers of 'significant' authors rather than any very personal view of this editor. One point for doctors in occupational medicine: none of the works reproduced is in his specialty unless scurvy in seamen and radon-induced dermatitis be so considered. Nevertheless, this book will leave him with a better understanding of the historic swing of medical thought, and all for a small price.

P. FROGGATT

Occupational Health 1970-71. Review of the First Year.
By J. A. Lunn. (Pp. 8.) Northwick Park Hospital
Management Committee. 1971.

Dr. Lunn, in his report, records the first year of the Staff Health Service. The objectives, achievements, and the future are discussed.

One of the distinguishing and fascinating features is the description of the establishment of a new service in a new hospital. Dr. Lunn states that most services have been established in old hospitals, where new services were sometimes regarded as intrusions, but in this case the staff were expecting a new service to function immediately. His difficulty was to fulfil the needs of the staff satisfactorily and promptly. There were, of course, difficulties, but in December 1970 four rooms became available for the service. This accommodation is still only temporary but has proved satisfactory.

He states, 'no staff health service can hope to prosper without the help and co-operation of the hospital administration. This has always been forthcoming, and has been a major factor in whatever successes have been achieved'. Quite obviously, Dr. Lunn appreciates his good fortune. The arrangements that he has made for resident staff in sickness and in health differ fundamentally from those established in industrial organizations. Many staff, though free to choose any general practitioner they wish, often preferred to register with the Staff Health Service. Of the resident staff in the hospital, 133 were nursing and 151 non-nursing. Because there were no sick-bay facilities, and there was a need for care in their own rooms when staff were ill, a home help system was established. 'This scheme has been an outstanding success.'

Other duties undertaken have been the medical selection of staff; immunization programmes; the setting up of confidential medical records of staff; investigation

of accidents to staff, in particular, the danger from incorrectly discarded needles was investigated, and suitable containers for used needles were provided. Visits to different areas of the hospital have been undertaken by the doctor and senior occupational health nursing officer with the co-operation of the heads of the departments involved. Hazards to health detected have been investigated. Some of these investigations are described in the report. Plans for the future are outlined. To achieve all their objectives the staff of the Health Service will require time as well as continued enthusiasm; meanwhile, both they and the administrators are to be congratulated on their very considerable achievements in 1970-71.

SUZETTE GAUVAIN

Encyclopaedia of Occupational Health and Safety, Volume I. A-K. (Pp. xi + 753; illustrated; £18.00 for the 2 volumes.) Geneva: I.L.O. 1971. (Volume II to be published Spring 1972.)

This encyclopaedia was last published between 1930 and 1934—about 40 years ago—although a number of supplements were published up to 1944. The undoubted value of the publication prompts one to make the suggestion that it should be produced every 10 years, and that it would be almost worth considering whether a special office should not be set aside for the task of continuous revision if indeed this is not already being done. Doctors Murray and Meiklejohn were members of the Character and Contents Committee from, but not necessarily representing, the United Kingdom. The material appears to be up to date to 1968, and it was in the reviewer's hands by the end of 1971, which is not bad going for an international publication of this size and complexity.

The general scheme in the book is to describe the layout of the industrial process, the dangers (the reviewer is allergic to the word 'hazards'), and then the safety, health, and legislative implications. Some of the diagrams and photographs of processes are a little too complicated to understand, and more simple annotation would have been welcome. Indeed, in some places space might have been saved by omitting a large diagram and substituting a few lines of simple description instead. The paper quality has limited to a certain extent the precision of the half-tone and colour reproduction, but it has also doubtless kept the price down. It is a pity that there is no index of contributors, but they appear to have been carefully chosen and the national experts accurately identified; for example, from among the U.K. writers John Gilson writes on asbestosis, R. S. F. Schilling on byssinosis, R. I. McCallum on decompression sickness, and John Rogan on coal miners' pneumoconiosis.

The book makes fascinating reading on every conceivable occupation which has a health and safety slant, and it should be on the shelves of those engaged in public as well as industrial health, since it includes articles on such subjects as abattoirs, which is the first heading, and on other subjects which overlap the public health field. The last paragraph is frankly clinical—on Kienbock's disease—and if, at this point, the reader should experience an uneasy feeling of ignorance, this can quickly be dispelled by referring to, or better still by buying, the book itself. There is even an article on the health risks of

gardening by an eminent Spanish colleague. In his time the reviewer, rather surprisingly, has been stung or bitten by almost all the insects listed but admittedly has not had his toes tickled by that unpleasant little foot flea, *Tunga penetrans*.

This is a large and important publication which should be widely purchased. It will be particularly valuable for those who may have to answer questions which cover a wide range, such as doctors who work in university departments and industrial health services which embrace diverse processes and geography.

I shall keep my copy near the telephone.

R. C. BROWNE

International Standards for Drinking Water, 3rd Edition. (Pp. 67; 90p) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1971.

The first edition of this publication produced in 1958 as an aid to the improvement of water quality and treatment set out suggested standards which have now been widely adopted. In 1963 the second edition drew attention to the increasing knowledge of the nature and effect of various contaminants, and to improved techniques for identifying them. A degree of uniformity in national methods of analysis, and the expression of their results, has already been achieved. Further progress is sought in order that results may become more readily comparable on an international basis. This much shorter edition omits detailed mention of information now generally accepted and freely available in other publications. Its purpose is to assist countries wishing to establish their own national standards or to revise existing standards; and it is hoped that it will stimulate further investigations of the problems of providing safe and potable water supplies to all communities, and also to monitor these so as to maintain the public health and reduce disease.

Bacteriological, virological, radiological, and physical and chemical examinations are considered and recommendations made. There is special mention of toxic chemical substances and pesticides. Mention is made of the beneficial effect of suitable concentrations of fluorides and also of the potential hazards of metallic contaminants, nitrates, and polynuclear hydrocarbons.

Recommendations are made for sampling for the above examinations, and specimen forms for reporting results are included in an Annex. The publication is aimed particularly at assisting operators of water supply systems and those concerned with the treatment of water supplies. There is clearly, however, an implication for those concerned with the discharge of industrial wastes.

Research workers are referred to the Report of the WHO Expert Committee on Health Criteria for Water Supplies, and in the present volume there is an extensive list of references.

R. A. N. HITCHENS

Notices

AMA Congress on Occupational Health

The 32nd annual AMA Congress on Occupational Health will be held at The Drake Hotel in Chicago 11-12 September 1972.

International Course in Epidemiological Methods

The Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, and the Industrial Medical Association of Finland will arrange a course in epidemiological methods with special reference to occupational health problems. The course is open to research workers from all countries.

The course will take place at the Theoretical Institutes of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Helsinki, Haartmaninkatu 3, from 21 August to 1 September 1972.

For more details, please write to Dr Sven Hernberg, M.D., Director, Department of Epidemiology and Biometry, Institute of Occupational Health, Haartmaninkatu 1, 00290 Helsinki 29, Finland.

Fourth Summer School on Alcoholism

The fourth annual Summer School on Alcoholism will be held at the Brighton College of Education, Falmer, Sussex from 9 to 16 September 1972.

Application forms may be obtained from: The Secretary, Summer School on Alcoholism, The Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AZ. Tel. No. 01-703 6333.