

summaries of medical research in progress which are published elsewhere. Nevertheless, it deserves a place on the shelves of all of us who have the welfare of miners at heart. It was a shock to find that neither the university library nor the local reference library stocked previous Annual Reports, and it is to be hoped that this omission will be rectified.

G. L. LEATHART

Trauma Surgery Excepting Bones and Joints. By P. Powley. (Pp. 136; 18 figs; £1.50.) Bristol: Wright. 1973.

This concise and essentially practical book is based on the author's personal experience of the diagnosis, early management, assessment, and initial surgical treatment of major soft tissue injuries to the head and trunk.

The help of specialist colleagues, J. Garfield and R. Thexton, has been enlisted to write the chapters on head injury and maxillofacial injury, respectively.

While most of the books on trauma have an orthopaedic bias, the author points out that almost all the causes of immediate and early death following injury result from damage to the soft tissues of the head, chest or abdomen. The book intended primarily for the use of junior orthopaedic, casualty, and general surgical staffs is designed to redress this orthopaedic imbalance.

Doctors working in industry will find the urgent and sometimes heroic surgical measures described beyond the scope of their departments. Anyone, however, who may be responsible for the care of serious injury before admission to hospital can with advantage study the practical points on early diagnosis and management described.

The book is an encouragement to all who may have to deal with the early stages of serious injury and demonstrates the real hope which modern medicine and surgery afford if the casualty can reach hospital alive.

J. D. CAMERON

Environmental and Industrial Health Hazards. By R. A. Trevethick. (Pp. 211; £4.50.) London: Heinemann Medical Books. 1973.

This unusual book was originally designed, we are told in the preface, to provide easy reference for the hazards to be found in the steel industry (*sic*). It is now presented for wider circulation because of an increasing demand from both lay and medical staff in industry and from postgraduate medical centres. How does it match up to these objectives?

When the book is opened at random, facing pages deal with a particular hazard. The right-hand page printed in black is a hazard data sheet, describing the hazard in simple straightforward language for managers, charge hands, engineers, and trades union officials. The left-hand page is printed in red and designed for doctors, nurses, and first-aiders so that they may 'have recommendations on further treatment, and the type of biological and physical monitoring which is required to test the efficiency of workshop precautions'. This is a simple practical system of presentation which has much to commend it.

A danger of this sort of presentation is that the author is trapped into making dogmatic statements. These may be permissible when giving clear directions to lay staff but they are not permissible in a book intended for doctors and postgraduate centres. For example, aluminium in some of its uses has proved a very dangerous material but this is not mentioned; the early symptoms of acute isocyanate poisoning are not, in my clinical experience, those described in this book; it is confusing to try to describe together the effects of nitrogen and of its oxides and with the latter there is no mention of the important secondary relapse which might occur two to four weeks after exposure; the advice on periodic medical screening of asbestos workers is limited to periodical chest radiographs and there is no mention of clinical examination or pulmonary function testing.

If this book is to serve doctors and is to retain its straightforward practical presentation the author should consider adding references to further detailed reading on the medical data sheets. In its present form the book is of very limited use to doctors whether or not in industrial medicine.

W. R. LEE

Proceedings of the Symposium on the Assessment of Exposure and Risk. Edited by Bertram W. Duck. (£1.50 incl. postage.) Copies available from the Society of Occupational Medicine, 11 St. Andrew's Place, London, NW1 4LE. 1973.

A reviewer once handed his script to an editor saying, 'You will see I have suggested that every industrial doctor should have a copy of the book on his bookshelf. I hope that it stays there and he does not try to read it'. This book on the Assessment of Exposure and Risk should be on the industrial doctor's desk and be read. Better, it should be beside his armchair so that he reads it (or parts of it) at leisure, puts it down, and reflects about some of the ideas offered.

It is the report of a symposium held over two days and separated into four sessions each with a stated theme:

At what stage is the measurable or identifiable effect of a chemical or physical agent to be regarded as pathological?

Quantitative assessment of hazards of exposure acceptable and unacceptable risks

Problems in establishing aetiology of disease—in relation to 'normal' incidence and 'natural' background

Medico-legal consequences and assessment of compensation

The first three sessions were opened by two or three speakers and the fourth by a distinguished medically qualified judge. Each session was followed by a discussion, and the final, fifth, session comprised a general discussion on all the material presented at the previous sessions.

The quality of the papers was high. I particularly enjoyed reading four contributions: one by Dr. Mole which exposed some of the clear and deep thinking leading to recommendations on Radiation Dose Limits;