which has all too often been neglected. It is no discovery that accidents often hurt people and are usually caused by people but we too frequently talk about the subject as if metal was the only thing that got bent and the real problem was how to handle the statistics. However, the subtitle *Psychological Concepts and Principles which bear on Industrial Safety*, gives a more accurate indication of what this book is attempting. There are four chapters: Organizational psychology; Engineering psychology; Training; and Behaviour modification, and the same format is followed in each. The authors put forward four or five main sections and group in all some 20 guidelines in these sections. For example, in Engineering psychology, the sections are: A. Work organization; B. job characteristics and demands; C. Workplace design and layout; D. Task characteristics and demands; and E. Control-display characteristics. Under the last category, we have E-19 Stimulus-response (S-R) compatibility (population stereotypes), E-20 Coding and identification, E-21 Display design, and E-22 Control design.

It will be appreciated that when a similar format has been followed for all four sections in each chapter, the impression is one of safety concepts being hung on to the framework of established disciplines; it is rather on the lines of saying, 'Here is how engineering psychology works; this is how it will influence safety if given the opportunity'. There is nothing wrong in such an approach, but in each chapter safety is secondary to the interests of the main subject and perhaps surprisingly there is no concluding chapter which tries to put the spotlight on accidents and integrates the various approaches.

Within the self-imposed limitations each of the chapters is a useful summary of the work in its field and how it might be applied to accident prevention. The chapter on engineering psychology is thorough and its references wide-ranging. I found the chapter on organizational psychology the least rewarding. I must be getting old but too many of its guidelines baffled me with their tautology, such as (a random selection):

'0-2 Organizational objectives. The objectives of an organization are reflected in its policies and practices. To promote safety, organizational actions should suggest to employees that safety is an important objective of the organization:

It is all done with a straight face but when 19 guidelines have been trotted out in a neat table and then exercised at length over 32 pages, concentration wanders. Yet overall the authors do succeed in bringing together 'those important principles in the behavioural sciences which appear to have significant bearing on occupational accident prevention'. To this extent the book can be commended although it offers no new insights into why man so often injures himself, injures others, and injures his world with much that is in it. This reminds me to add that within its stiff covers this book is most expensively produced and will cost the reader \$11.50 for its 144 pages.

HARRY KAY

A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Diagnosis, 4th edition. By R. D. Eastham. (Pp. 303; £2.50). Bristol: Wright. 1976

The number and variety of laboratory tests used in the diagnosis of disease increase with bewildering rapidity

each year, and there is also a greater range of diseases which may be encountered. This pocket book has been prepared as a guide to the effective use of the laboratory by the hospital doctor and the general practitioner. However, it is only of use in cases in which the diagnosis is known or suspected for there is no cross-reference system to enable the significance of an abnormal result to be determined. The guide is comprehensive, covering microbiology and some histology as well as chemical pathology and it includes a large number of rare conditions which are most unlikely to be encountered by a physician in occupational medicine.

By contrast, occupational disorders are inadequately covered. While, for example, disorders of metabolism are covered fully, the chapter on the investigation of intoxications is very short and not always accurate. This chapter includes a note on 'Haff' disease but does not include cadmium poisoning and makes no mention of organophosphorus or of any other form of pesticide poisoning apart from paraquat. Again, the only mention of poisoning by any of the aromatic or aliphatic series of hydrocarbons is limited to ethyl alcohol and halothane. In chronic beryllium poisoning, the text informs us, the urinary output of beryllium is increased, but this is not necessarily true. Unqualified didactic statements are made, which is a fault associated with many pocket books which attempt to cover too wide a field.

The text is most useful for its record of biochemical and microbiological features and also for its summary of important negative findings associated with specific disease states and syndromes.

G. KAZANTZIS

Manual on Radiation Protection in Hospitals and General Practice, Vol. 3: X-Ray Diagnosis. By B. E. Keane and K. B. Tikhonov. (Pp. 96; tables, figs; Sw. fr. 18.) Geneva: WHO. 1975.

This WHO publication meets effectively a fairly narrow but very worthwhile objective. Much theory and experience in radiological protection is condensed in this book into a clear set of widely applicable recommendations. All those responsible for providing diagnostic x-ray facilities or for monitoring their safe use will find it a valuable guide. In particular it will give authoritative support to those who, having a scientific background but limited experience, find themselves in the position of having to advise other professional groups such as administrators, architects, or medical practitioners.

C. B. CLAYTON

The Physiology and Medicine of Diving and Compressed Air Work, 2nd edition. Edited by P. D. Bennett and D. H. Elliott. (Pp. 566; £17.) London: Baillière Tindall. 1975.

In recent years more attention has been paid to the environment as a challenge to health, and the constraints of conventional medicine are giving way to the broader concepts of occupational and community medicine. Man himself has evolved to function effectively within a relatively narrow range of environmental changes. He demands a precise microclimate and an accurately monitored and maintained inner chemistry. He is basically