to be required only so far as is reasonably practicable, whereas the safe person approach is a matter for strict compliance.

Progress against most dangers to health at work invariably brings a shift to the safe place emphasis. In the long run it is doubtful whether the deferment of safe place strategies by means of safe person is really the bargain which the strategists suppose.

Here is the dilemma for occupational health: should practitioners defend the safe person approach on a cost and feasibility argument when the strategic decision never lies with them? By defending it are they encouraging and prolonging an approach which is not only uneconomic but also fundamentally unsound?

G. R. C. ATHERLEY

The Evolution of Health and Safety in Mines. By Sir Andrew Bryan. (Pp. 129; No price given.) Mine & Quarry Publication.

Sir Andrew Bryan is a well-known figure in the mining industry and has been recognised for years as an authority on the development and enforcement of safety legislation in the UK. Much of his experience is recorded in this book.

It starts with a summary of the events, mainly in the north of England in the early part of the last century, which led to the establishment of investigating committees; and an account of H. S. Tremenhoe who did so much to alleviate the conditions under which women and children were employed in the mines. This is followed by a description of the developments in technology, the new hazards that arose from them, and the background of investigations which led to the legislation and the appointment of mines inspectors in the years up to the consolidating Acts of 1872 and 1911.

Thereafter the book deals with the development of legislation up to 1954 and includes accounts of the expansion of the Mines Inspectorate and the increasing health hazards mainly due to increasing dust production from mechanised systems of working.

The last chapter includes a searching analysis of the recommendations of the Robens Committee and the impact of the new Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its effects on the mining industry.

Throughout the style of the writing is full of interest and Sir Andrew's book will undoubtedly become a classic to those

interested in the history and development of mining legislation in this country.

R. K. DUNHAM

Good Health Abroad: A Traveller's Handbook. By W. H. Jopling. (Pp. 112; £1.75). Wright: Bristol. 1975.

This book is aimed at the traveller whoever he or she may be, so it is not a book for physicians. It is divided into four main sections: preparation for departure, the journey, after arrival (or during overland travel), and after return home. Appendices are given on the representatives in Britain of overseas countries, yellow fever vaccination centres (in UK only), conversion tables for weight, length, volume, and temperature.

This is a well-written little book which could be of value to anyone who is travelling regularly. It contains much good common sense and medical advice. Nursing staff could also benefit by having a copy in their library. This book does not give detailed information and is probably adequate for the city bound executive but it would be much less use under expedition conditions, when James Adam's book *A Traveller's Guide to Health* would be preferable.

Minor criticisms could be made; for example, the recommendation of acriflavine cream for treating minor burns, but in general the advice is sound and up to date. The book is British in tone and content. At today's inflated prices the cost is reasonable.

A. WARD GARDNER

Health and Safety at Work: A TUC Guide. (Pp. 93; 25p). Trades Union Congress: London. 1975.

The Shop Steward's Guide to Workplace Health and Safety. By Denis Gregory and Joe McCarty. (Pp. 69; 60p). Spokesman Books and Ruskin Trade Union Research Unit. 1975.

New legislation on health and safety brings in its wake an epidemic of books, pamphlets and innumerable articles produced either to explain the new law or to expose its imperfections. These two booklets provide examples in relation to the British Health and Safety at Work Act which came into effect in 1975.

Health and Safety at Work was produced as a guide for workers' safety representatives who wish to learn about the subject without being confused by technical or legal jargon. It has succeeded in this

objective and the anonymous author is to be congratulated on a most useful and readable booklet. In 18 brief chapters, each with its checklist, the health problems of air pollution, noise, skin hazards, manual handling and welding, as well as the physical safety aspects of machinery, hand tools, lifting gear, fire and so on are succinctly described in relation to the new law. There are also most informative chapters on the permit-to-work procedure and the way in which the Act now covers many workers previously left out. I was interested to learn that clergy and ministers of religious organisations are now protected by law from the occupational hazards of their work.

Although reluctant to criticise such a helpful and inexpensive booklet, I hope that the next edition will amend the clear implication on page 24 that there is no such thing as an inert dust and that bronchitis is 'often contracted from unhealthy working conditions'. The chapter on manual handling refers to International Labour Office recommendations on maximum weights, goes on to set out a much reduced scale recommended by 'some experts', and ends with a TUC recommendation that even these lower weights should be reduced by 25%. The next edition should also quote metric weights.

This booklet will certainly help trades unionists and I would strongly recommend it to any occupational health practitioner working in industry.

The Shop Steward's Guide to Workplace Health and Safety, on the other hand, was written to draw the attention of trades unionists to the implications and, more importantly, the limitations of the new Act, and it proposes action to improve what the authors consider to be an unsatisfactory situation. Although much of the booklet is written in unemotive style, and contains useful facts and figures derived from official and other publications, there are occasional barbed comments. The underlying message is that employers can seldom be trusted to take sufficient care, and the Factory Inspectorate also comes in for criticism. Codes of practice receive little support and the contention is made that safety rules are often flouted because of the two most prevalent industrial diseases affecting management, namely 'acute production pressure' and, as the authors describe it, the highly contagious 'blind eye'.

The main proposal put forward in this booklet is that trades unions should establish their own workers safety in-