
This is a book of practical advice written by two doctors with considerable experience of occupational health in the field, which has been cemented by service in an academic department. It starts by discussing why health is of concern to managers and work people and how interest in it began to grow. The next three chapters are on the organisation of health services at work, medical examinations and screening, and whether absence from work is due to sickness or not. Then follow chapters upon disability and disease, shiftwork and the general pattern of occupational hazards. The discussion now focuses rather more sharply upon chemical and physical hazards and safety. The working environment and mental health have a chapter each, and the last chapter deals with a collection of detailed but important matters which are always cropping up in any industry such as (to name a few) executive health, food handlers, backpackers and alcohol.

Two appendices are attached, one of which lists some of the more important journals published in English in the field of occupational health, and the other gives a draft form for investigating and reporting incidents. There is a good index, the print is clear and is easier to read than is often found in these days.

This book is crisply written and the language keeps the reader on his toes, for example: 'Animal glues can safely be slapped about and left on the skin ...' and '... but we sometimes find that these same people are obese, smoke large numbers of cigarettes, and drive without their seat belts.' The approach of the authors is clear, logical, intellectually honest, and thoughtful. It is informed by considerable practical experience but is also flexible enough to accommodate to what actually happens in industry.

A few mild suggestions may, perhaps, be offered for inclusion in the next edition. Photographs are, of course, expensive to reproduce, but a few more simple line diagrams might be included to illustrate how things work. Rather more emphasis is needed upon the importance of thorough training in safe working practices in the discussion on safety. The role of the genetics of personal psychology needs a mention, and so also does the relationship of personnel selection to the maintenance of group mental health. A little more about first-aid organisation and training for different situations would also not be amiss. Continuous processes in large automated non-traumatic plants combined with the increasing scarcity of professional medical personnel make the role of the first aider more important.

This is a very good book for both doctors and managers, and I would like to see it required reading on courses for both these groups.

R. C. BROWNE


The latest edition of this well-known American text comes nine years after the previous one and, in the authors' words, is intended to be a survey of the field of industrial psychology. To this end they have selected a representative sample of problems, methods, and findings over a wide spectrum to give an impression of the subject as a whole. The book does not claim to be inclusive in its content but it does claim to illustrate, with appropriate examples, the range of the more important topics and issues involved. In this it succeeds well and those who consult it to discover what industrial psychology is all about will find it a reliable guide, although readers in this country must expect to find British work under-represented.

The structure of the book is similar to that used in the fifth edition. It is in six parts, the first dealing with introductory chapters on individual and situational differences in behaviour and jobs and their requirements, while the remainder are devoted to the following major areas of industrial psychology: personnel selection and appraisal, the social and organisational context of work, the job and work situation, human error and accidents, and psychological aspects of consumer behaviour. Within these sections some re-ordering of material is apparent. For example, the chapter previously entitled Human Behaviour in Organisations is now separated into two, 'Management Philosophies and Practices' and 'Employee-Management Relationships'. Although the change of emphasis reflects current thinking, in this and other sections of the book close reading is required to discern what new material has been included and what left out since the fifth edition. In two areas of particular interest to occupational medicine the main changes are: a much more circumspect approach to the concept of accident proneness and the introduction of McGlade's (1970) construct of adjustable behaviour in relation to safe performance; some up-dated references on shift-work and rest pauses in the discussion on hours of work. The appendices on elementary descriptive statistics, expectancy tables and representative personnel tests are retained and, like the rest of the book, clearly presented and well laid out.

Overall the book can be recommended as a work of reference. It gives a useful overview of most of the main topics in industrial psychology and those wishing to follow these in more detail will find it a convenient point of departure in pursuing their studies.

S. SHIMMIN


This third edition is in response to recent changes in the law which make driving licences valid until their holders reach the age of 70. Drivers are now under a statutory obligation to inform the Licensing Authority if they get any disability likely to cause danger to the public. Once they become aware of this they are more likely to ask their family doctor's advice about the effects of illness on driving ability. The regulations for public service and heavy goods vehicle drivers are much more stringent than for private car drivers. A myocardial infarct bars bus or lorry driving for life, although one can drive a car after two months. So does a casual blood pressure reading of 200/110 or treatment with potent hypotensive drugs, although a private motorist may drive so long as hypotensive drugs do not make