have occurred had no major consequences, the potential hazards of nuclear plant remain, and continuing attention to emergency planning and exercising are essential in order to maintain the present position.

For those directly concerned in the study of accidents in the nuclear industry these Proceedings represent an invaluable group of papers which are well presented and are up to the usual high standard of the publications of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

J. A. Bonnell


This report, from the Joint Standing Committee on Health, Safety and Welfare in Foundries, is directed at the operators of existing foundries and not the designers of new machines. In consequence it contains little by way of technical innovation. Its real value lies in the collection together of data and information relating to a specific industry in a form which is readily accessible to, and usable by, those persons responsible for health and safety in that industry.

Four general foundry processes are identified as always being hazardous, together with forging and dressing which are considered as non-foundry operations. The noise control measures described are inevitably of the 'wrap it, box it or stuff it' approach. Actual examples and results are given which are well within the capabilities of most maintenance departments or fitting shops. Some ideas are remarkably practical and economic, such as the use of old conveyor belting for lining steel chutes and the application of expansion silencers to pneumatic exhausts to avoid clogging by sand. The inclusion of details of some schemes which have failed is especially useful.

Criticism of a report based on established practices is difficult, but a few points were noted. The use of a tripod to mount a sound level meter may avoid the relatively minor errors due to reflections from the observer's body, but can lead to untypical estimates of the exposures of mobile personnel unless a very large number of spot readings are taken. When dealing with personal exposures as opposed to machinery tests, the noise pattern over the whole work area should always be investigated. Noise-attenuating enclosures should not be placed 'as near as possible' to the source, as acoustic coupling can occur due to the springiness of the intervening air, particularly with low frequency sources such as reciprocating compressors. Rather than just making numerous references to the 1972 Department of Employment Code of Practice, an opportunity has been missed to update some sections, and particularly the Appendices, in the light of subsequent developments. There is inconsistent use of the terms 'ear' and 'hearing' protection, even within the same paragraph.

Although the report has no legal status under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, it will undoubtedly acquire considerable significance as a statement of what is 'reasonably practicable' in both Statute and Common Law. It is therefore an important document for all concerned with foundries and allied operations.

W. I. Acton


The first edition of this short book, volume 5 in the series Studies in Law and Practice for Health Service Management, appeared under the slightly different title of Legal Rights and Duties in Medical and Nursing Service.

One of the complaints of lawyers is that their books go out of date so quickly, but it is still unusual to see the second edition of a book on the law appear only two years after the first. Anyone who already possesses a copy of this book need not, however, feel constrained to rush out and buy this new edition. There have been few changes in the law within the scope of the book, and most of these have been minor. The majority of the text and the arrangement of the book also remain unchanged, the book's three chapters dealing with employment, the provision of safe working conditions and the civil liability of those in the medical service. The only major area of law which is likely to affect doctors and nurses which is not covered by the book is that of the criminal law.

Despite all this, while remaining very compact the book has increased notably in size. This is partly through the adoption of a new format, but the number of cases referred to has nearly doubled, and the text contains many more examples.

For instance the section on dismissal of employees, which in the first edition consisted mainly of a statement of principles, now contains several new pages illustrating their application.

Although most of the changes are small there can be little doubt that this new edition improves on the already high standard of the last, which it matches in accuracy and readability: and with no increase in price it offers comparatively better value.

R. A. Pearce


There is a considerable amount of too-often repeated history in the early pages and large slabs of quotation and cosiness throughout this reissued book that are not, at first glance, encouraging. The temptation to cast it aside, however, should be resisted because reading it is well worth the effort.

Since 1954, when the book was first published, occupational health nurses have appreciated just how much Miss Charley and her contemporaries did for present-day occupational health practice. They were able to rally the support of physicians and others outside nursing to establish the need for training because they were committed and enthusiastic. They also seem to have been able to look clearly at other branches of nursing to observe all that they could offer to what was then called Industrial Nursing.

It makes depressing reading in parts because some of the simple problems discussed in the 1930s and 40s have still not been solved. Naturally, a few of the ideas expressed are now outdated but a number of the suggestions have been accepted and proved.

It would have been useful to bring the book up to date if only to show how slow the progress has been in occupational health nursing in the last 30 years.

Occupational health practitioners, whatever their training, should read this account of the courageous efforts to establish occupational health nursing on a sound professional basis. It is a lesson in gracious co-operative effort and explains something of what nurses in work places really aim to be.

D. Radwanski