

will be used as a source of alarmist propaganda against the future use of asbestos. The presence of asbestos in the drinking water, beers, wines and spirits available in most Western communities is frightening enough to the uninformed. This book also records the number of asbestos fibres in intravenous fluids for parenteral nutrition and in the sterile water for intramuscular and subcutaneous injections. No attempt is made to evaluate these 'risks', just as little reference is made to the risks which may result from the replacement of asbestos by other natural or synthetic fibres whose hazards to man will not become apparent for another 40 years.

P. C. ELMES

Environmental Health Criteria 5: Nitrates, Nitrites and N-Nitroso Compounds. (Pp. 107; 10.00 Sw. fr., \$5.00). WHO: Geneva. 1977.

This slim volume provides a comprehensive review of current knowledge of this group of compounds in 1976. It begins with a crisply written summary, which may satisfy the needs of most students of occupational medicine, and a series of recommendations for future research.

The properties, analytical methods, sources, transport and transformation, environmental levels and exposure, metabolism, effects on man and experimental animals, and health risks are considered in varying detail. Unfortunately the uncluttered style of the initial chapter is not continued throughout the book. A more narrative style, a numerical reference system rather than repeated interjections of authors' names, and double spacing between sub-paragraphs would have made the book more easily read. Researchers in this field and occupational physicians in industries using or producing these compounds will probably find that the effort is worth while.

There is no index but the layout of the contents pages should guide the reader to the information required. There is an extensive list of references.

G. H. GRANT MCMILLAN

Nitrogen Oxides: Report of the Committee on Medical and Biologic Effects of Environmental Pollutants. (Pp. 333; \$13.50). National Academy of Sciences: Washington, DC. 1977.

This comprehensive review of knowledge of nitrogen oxides is recommended both as an introductory text and as a guide to sources of information, to occupational physicians and hygienists in industries which generate these oxides, and to others concerned with environmental pollution. Atmospheric pollution data are mainly of North American origin.

Various aspects of the subject are dealt with in self-contained chapters each with its summary, conclusions and, frequently, recommendations for future research. The first half of the book covers the properties, sources, control, analytical methods, atmospheric concentration and chemical interactions in the atmosphere. This is followed by discussions on the effects of the oxides on natural ecosystems, materials, vegetation and health. Recent research findings are integrated well with previous knowledge and there are useful summary tables in several chapters. The reader is made aware of the limitations imposed by the experimental design of some studies.

The Editor and Committee have achieved uniformity of style throughout the book which, together with the publisher's choice of type, layout and paper tone, combine to give a very readable book. The bibliography contains 621 references. There is a full index.

G. H. GRANT MCMILLAN

Notices

International Symposium on the Protection of Workers against Noise

This symposium, jointly organised by the Central Institute of Occupational Safety of the German Democratic Republic and the International Labour Office, will be held at Dresden, 27-30 November 1979. Subjects discussed will include equipment design, noise control in the working

environment, occupational health aspects, and noise prevention policies and programmes—legal, social and economic aspects. The languages spoken will be English, French, German and Russian. Further information can be obtained from the International Labour Office, Occupational Safety and Health Branch, CH-1211 Geneva 22, or from Internationales Symposium 'Schutz der Arbeiter vor Lärm', Organisationsbüro, Postschlossfach 105, DDR 8020 Dresden: telephone 41 782; telex 26 221 zfa ddr.

IXth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases

This Congress, which will be held in Amsterdam from 6-9 May 1980, has as its central theme 'Recent developments in the prevention of occupational risks within the company'. An international exhibition of modern occupational safety equipment, devices, clothing and other safety measures is being organised, and other special events dealing with the prevention of accidents at work will be arranged in connection with the Congress. Further information may be obtained from Benelux Organising Committee, IXth World Congress on the Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Diseases, Veiligheidsinstituut, Postbox 5665, 1007 AR Amsterdam, Netherlands: telephone (020) 736414.

Philadelphia Clerkship in Occupational Safety and Health

This is an eight-week, full time programme, from July 5-August 29, 1979. It is designed to train students of medicine, nursing, industrial hygiene and allied health professions in basic occupational safety and health. The clerkship will contain both academic and field components and, although much of the student's work will be independent, close supervision will be provided throughout. Enrolment will be limited to 12 students. For further information and application forms, write to Philadelphia Clerkship in Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Research Medicine, 36th and Hamilton Walk GA, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA.