

Book reviews

Elements of Accident Investigation. By T. S. Ferry. (Pp. 75; \$6.00). C. C. Thomas: Springfield, Illinois. 1978.

This is an informative introduction to methods of investigation of accidents now in use in North America. The number of alternatives may well surprise a British reader. There is a variant of the familiar 3 Es: they now read Education, Engineering and Environment, from which might be derived the 4 Ms (Man, Machine, Media and Management). A more systematic investigative approach is that of the National Safety Council's Accident Prevention Manual. Other systems approaches include Johnson's Risk Tree, the Bell Fault Tree Analysis and multilinear sequencing which has been developed by Benner.

The intention of the present book is to introduce these methods to an untrained person who might be required to investigate and report on an accident. It is, therefore, appropriately written in a popular rather than a scientific style and, inevitably, the treatment is sometimes incomplete. The book will be of interest to doctors in industry to indicate the different types of accident investigation which might be used and which may help in prevention of injury.

J. P. BULL

The Handicapped and their Employment. By Georges Y. Rouault. (Pp. 214; £4.20). Statistical Office of the European Communities: Luxembourg.

This is a paperback book of 214 pages in typescript form.

Mr Rouault was commissioned by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in 1976 to carry out a study of the statistics of the handicapped and their employment in the member states of the European Communities. In order to collect as much information as possible on handicapped persons in all categories

(physical, sensory and mental handicap), Mr Rouault visited each community country and made contact with the ministries and various public, semi-public and private services and organisations involved in the particular aspects of education, training and placing of physically or mentally handicapped persons, with a view to their social and economic integration. The sources of information are not always the same in each country; the administrative system and the departments responsible differ. They nevertheless have the same aim and classifications could be found to cover them all. This procedure was adopted to make it possible to compare the statistics from each community country.

In each case, the first part of the report provides a summary of the legislation applicable. This was taken from documents published by the Council of Europe on legislation covering the rehabilitation and employment of handicapped persons, and completed during the visits with any additional texts which had been implemented more recently. Reference should be made in this connection to the three volumes entitled *Comparative Study on the Rehabilitation of Handicapped Persons in the Countries of the Community*, published by the Directorate General for Social Affairs, which provide yet more detailed information on administrative and legal aspects.

The population age groups have been standardised, the main categories being 5-14 years (approximately school years) and 15-64 years (the working years: classified under accidents, other disabilities, training and rehabilitation centres, workshops etc.). The statistical data of the report are based on the actual number of handicapped persons found in each section. For the few cases where no exact figures were available, particularly in road and industrial accidents, the information has been completed with estimates based on the other countries. This does not appear to distort the final

results and percentages to any great extent.

Reference to general information on pensions and degrees of incapacity has, on the whole, been avoided because of the difficulty of establishing a direct connection between invalidity attributable to various causes, and its possible result, the handicap, which poses problems of social and economic integration or re-integration, whose solution depends on a set of complex factors peculiar to each individual.

As one would expect with this type of book, it is not easily readable because it does no more than set out a series of statistics. Nevertheless it is a worthwhile study which provides much information on the subject, and which will be of interest to anyone who wants to see how the problem is tackled in the different countries of the European Community, and also how figures compare for different disability groups.

A. ZINOVIEFF

Alcoholism and its Treatment in Industry. Edited by Carl J. Schramm. (Pp. 191; £8.50). The John Hopkins University Press: Baltimore and London. 1978.

There is a mass of detail in this relatively small book. It emphasises all too clearly how far ahead of us in Britain America has progressed in the setting up of programmes to provide assistance to the problem drinker. It is chastening to read, however (though the treatment programmes there have been proliferating for over 30 years) that, despite this, there is still little scientific knowledge available to guide policy makers charged with setting up and administering industrial treatment programmes.

The subject of abuse of alcohol in industry is slowly beginning to gain recognition in this country and recently the Minister responsible for Social Services stated that the six million working