Book review

Occupational Lung Disorders, 2nd ed. By WR Parkes. (Price £68.00.) Sevenoaks; Butterworths, 1982. **Occupational Lung Diseases. Research Approaches and Methods**. Edited by H Weill and M Turner-Warwick. (Price £18.50.) New York; Marcel Dekker, 1981. **Clinical Investigation of Respiratory Disease**. Edited by TJH Clark. (Price £22.50.) London; Chapman and Hall, 1981. **Respiratory Protection, Principles and Applications**. Edited by B Ballantyne and PH Schwabe. (Price £20.00.) London; Chapman and Hall, 1981.

With the exception of the skin, the lung has no rival as the organ most affected by occupational disease, and this is reflected by the steady flow of books dealing with occupational lung disorders. Among the foremost of these is Parkes's *Occupational Lung Disorders*, and the appearance of the second edition is most welcome. Parkes is best when dealing with the pneumoconioses, and the book is essential

for the chapters on dust diseases. He deals less authoritatively with the occupational asthmas, and a new chapter on occupational lung tumours is superficial by contrast with other sections. If the book has a fault then I think it is in trying to be all inclusive. The opening chapters on anatomy, physiology, and pathology are interesting, although by no means as comprehensive as may be found elsewhere, but the sections on the medical examination and history taking are not very helpful: I also find that the chapter on geology and geochemistry sits uneasily in the book. Apart from these minor criticisms, I am able to recommend the book wholeheartedly, although at £68 it will have to last most people a very long time.

The book edited by Weill and Turner-Warwick makes a useful companion to Parkes's text; the contributions on exercise testing by Cotes, on inhalation testing by Newman-Taylor and Davies, and on the mechanisms of fibrogenesis by Bateman, Emerson, and Cole are particularly good. The chapter by McDonald on epidemiology

is excellent, the best short account I have read. This book, and the one edited by Clark, are ephemeral and will not be used as major works of reference; they are ideal to take on the train or plane to dip into. For the occupational physician, Clark's book contains fewer chapters of direct relevance, although Cochrane's chapter on screening is worth a read, making a good companion to McDonald's in Weill's book. Turner-Warwick and Haslam have contributed a splendid chapter on immunology to Clark's book, and Denison's chapter on physiology repays careful reading.

Respiratory Protection, edited by Ballantyne and Schwabe is a sound guide to the design and application of the different types of masks and filters in use in industry. Some of the early chapters which form the section on basic principles are perhaps a little too basic to be of great value, although Davies's chapter on the deposition and distribution of inhaled particles is excellent.

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