Allergy to chemicals and organic substances in the workplace. By GW Cambridge and BFJ Goodwin. Occupational hygiene monograph No 12. (Pp 79; £7.) Northwood, Middx: Science Reviews Ltd, 1984.

This monograph for occupational hygienists contains sections on basic immunology, allergic diseases, substances inducing allergy, airborne antigen measurement, and animal tests for predicting allergenicity. The list of 208 references is in no logical order but is comprehensive. The emphasis is on contact dermatitis and on asthma; extrinsic allergic alveolitis is less well covered; byssinosis is mentioned but humidifier fever is not. Most of the text concerns the evidence for the induction of allergy by specific substances and the choice is judicious, including the major occupational allergens. Many

subsections are careful and scholarly synopses of current knowledge, and the book is a good introduction to the extensive literature on occupational allergy. This is not a practical guide to allergy in the workplace. Many clinical terms are poorly explained and distinctions between disease entities are blurred by the use of "allergy" and "sensitivity" without qualification. Primary and secondary preventive measures are not discussed in detail. There is no clear picture of the severe acute symptoms and chronic disability a sensitised worker may experience nor of the necessity for urgent preventive action. Nevertheless, by avoiding glib description and dogmatic pronouncements, the authors have conveyed the complexities of occupational allergy and are to be commended for so doing in this intelligent yet concise and readable book.

KM VENABLES

Notice

Epidemiology in Occupational Health: 4th International Symposium. Villa Olmo, Como, Italy, 10-12 September 1985

The symposium has the purpose of bringing together people working in occupational epidemiology to discuss methodology, findings, and applications of their research.

Papers will be welcome on the following themes: methods in occupational epidemiology; medical surveillance: methods and evaluation; occupational cancer: research methodology and findings; reproductive effects;

occupational disease: neurobehavioral, cardiovascular, and respiratory; occupational epidemiology in developing countries; work accidents; and epidemiology of "work related" disease.

The programme will include plenary and scientific sessions, and submitted and invited papers.

The official language of the symposium is English, which will be used for all presentations and printed materials. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

All correspondence regarding the symposium should be addressed to: Dr P A Bertazzi, Secretary, IV International Symposium, Epidemiology in Occupational Health, 8, Via S Barnaba, I-20122 Milan, Italy.