icologist; too often the education of animal toxicologists stops short of understanding the human purpose behind the science, and for clinicians it is hard to find a general text, such as this, which has enough human material in it to persuade them to buy it. In volume 1, key basic areas such as biotransformation, toxicokinetics, statistics, influence of route and dose, design of toxicological studies, and techniques are discussed in the early chapters. The chapter on toxicokinetics includes a further reading list of general texts and review articles, in addition to more specialised references. This is an excellent aide for students and perhaps the editors could encourage other chapter authors to do the same for any second edition. There follows comprehensive coverage of toxicity to systems and organs. The opening part of volume 2, although entitled *Special Toxicology* is nevertheless indispensable, and covers genetic, carcinogenic and reproductive toxicity, the key areas in which compounds often survive or fall nowadays. There follows concise overviews of the regulatory systems for human and animal medicines, industrial chemicals, pesticides, food additives, and food contact materials, although coverage of both the United States and Europe is not consistent. This section will be particularly useful for the student of toxicology, but inevitably a book of this nature cannot include the level of detail that will be needed by company toxicologists. Finally, an eclectic but interesting group of chapters under the general heading of *Toxicology in Special Situations* focuses on the dramatic (disasters, chemical warfare), the unusual (combustion toxicology, animal poisons), the thought provoking (ethical, moral, and professional issues) and topics of current high profile (air pollution, recombinant DNA derived proteins).

Have the editors and authors achieved their demanding goal, to serve the needs of both first degree students and those studying for higher qualifications, as well as a reference text for more experienced toxicologists? In scope, undoubtedly; the

quality of individual chapters is generally high, although a few are frustratingly short in length and depth. For the industrial medicine specialist there is much in here to command attention, not only the discussions on human toxicology, epidemiology, and information on specific chemicals, but also in the overviews of key areas of animal toxicology, such as mutagenicity, carcinogenicity, and reproductive toxicity, which need to be understood when discussing the significance of hazard warning labels with workers. A final refreshing feature is that with less than a third of the authors coming from the United States, and the reminder mainly from the United Kingdom, this book reverses the usual trend, and puts the United Kingdom toxicology community firmly on the international map.

S M BARLOW

Occupational Lung Disorders, 3rd edition. By R PARKES. (Pp xix + 874; price £135). 1994. Linacre House, Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8DP: Butterworth-Heinemann. ISBN 0 7506 1403 X.

The first edition of Parkes was a relatively slender volume, dealing almost exclusively with those matters, primarily the mineral pneumoconioses, of which the author had considerable personal experience. The third edition is a huge, encyclopaedic book, beautifully produced and illustrated, and correspondingly expensive. The author/editor modestly admits in his preface that the task of keeping it up to date is now too much for one person, although his erudition shows through in those 11 of the 25 chapters that he has written or contributed to personally.

The first quarter of the book is concerned with general subjects, anatomy, physiology, immunology and so on, well written but with the exception of Denison's scholarly chapter on physiology and the chapter on imaging, not much different from similar accounts in many other books. Thereafter,

there is a comprehensive account of the clinical and pathological features of the pneumoconioses, asbestos-related disease, toxic lung conditions, neoplasms, and allergic and infective lung diseases. All include detailed consideration and discussion of recent literature, Browne's chapter on asbestos being particularly good.

Some controversial matters are touched upon, and here one gets the feeling that the authors have their eyes on the libraries of lawyers. Certainly this profession will find the book very useful. To the mind of this reviewer, however, the chapter that describes the differentiation between asbestosis and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is biased by a lack of wide experience of the very varied natural history of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which makes the large grey area between the conditions seem rather too black or white. The discussion of silicosis and lung cancer is wisely cautious, but the possibility of a relation between exposure to industrial dust and fumes on the one hand, and disabling airways disease and emphysema on the other is largely discounted, in spite of an increasing body of evidence. One suspects that the next edition will have another tale to tell, particularly in view of recent work on the effects of sub-micron sized particles on the lung.

Overall this is a valuable book with a comprehensive range of information on the clinical features of occupational lung diseases, and is essential as a reference work for libraries and those involved in medico-legal practice. It is not always an easy read, as this book aims to be comprehensive and to cover both sides of an argument. It only has one major failing, an important one for occupational physicians; it virtually ignores matters relating to prevention and management. It is thus the classical medical textbook that recognises the excitement of diagnosis and discovery of causation of disease, but underemphasises things of greater interest to our potential patients. In a future edition one would hope to see this replace some of the detail in the earlier chapters.

ANTHONY SEATON