For further information contact: Office of Continuing Medical Education Registration Office, Room MCB-630 University of California, San Francisco, California 94143-0742. Tel: 415 476 0318.

Royal College of Physicians of London, Forthcoming Conferences 1996
18 January—HIV and associated infections. 12–15 February—Advanced medicine. 29 February—Osteoporosis. 6 March—Epithelial cell biology—a science impacting clinically. 19 March—The interface between medicine and the insurance industry. 25 March—CME day—cerebrovascular disease.

For further details of these, events, please contact: Conference Office, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. Tel: 0171 935 1174 ext 252/300, Fax: 0171 487 5218.

Air Pollution and Health. 31 January 1996. Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1.

The Royal College of Physicians of London, and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine are holding a conference on Air Pollution and Health.

For further information contact: The Conference Administrator, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. Tel: 0171 935 1174, Fax: 0171 487 5218.


This meeting, to be held at Robinson College, Cambridge, from 26–30 August 1996, is the eighth of a series of symposia held every five years since 1960 with the most recent in Edinburgh in 1991.

As in previous symposia the aim will be to promote the presentation and discussion of the results of recent research on inhaled particles and their effects.

The eighth symposium will consider both occupational and environmental exposure to particles, gases, and vapours integrating research findings from basic mechanisms to the epidemiological impact on human health.

Submissions are particularly invited in the following areas:

- Tobacco smoke and other indoor pollutants
- Fibres (man made and mineral)
- Environmental aerosols
- Sensitisers and irritants
- Radioactive particles
- Biological aerosols
- Silica and other minerals
- Fumes and other inorganic particles

Date for submission of abstracts 1 March 1996.

Decisions on abstracts notified by 31 March 1996.

For further information contact: The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS), Suite 2 Georgian House, Great Northern Road, Derby DE1 1LT, UK. Tel: (0)1332 298101 Fax: (0)1332 290099.

BOOK REVIEWS

Book review editor: R L Maynard

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Sheila Pantry edits a compendium of contemporary topics on occupational health—a subject "moving towards the millennium". As "occupational health concerns everyone" the targeted reader is anyone with an interest in occupational health and safety.

The foreword by John Rimington (former Director General of the Health and Safety Executive) describes "a collection of authoritative articles which probably no-one would read from end to end". However, with a selective approach, this book can be read through quite easily.

The statistics and legislation in the opening pages, although not enticing to the reader, are interspersed with useful insights. Misaligned public perception of health risk is illustrated by an estimated 500 people dying daily from occupational accidents worldwide—with receiving the major attention that would be demanded if caused by airline accident.

Of particular interest to occupational health physicians is a very readable overview of the most significant research developments in common occupational diseases that have occurred during the past five years. A section on training and education in occupational health for nurses is actually useful to any health and safety practitioner. I agree with Jane Geary's holistic approach to training incorporating teamwork and communication to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Educationalists should not become isolated in their ivory towers and trainees should aim to develop their own problem solving skills through self directed learning.

Matthew Cullen makes valid points on more employment specific training for first aiders and also, interestingly, considers their own fitness to work in certain physically demanding situations.

Steve Bailey's contribution on occupational hygiene succinctly describes the limitations of environmental monitoring in the workplace. Areas of interest to all health and safety practitioners include descriptions of different types of organisational culture (power/role/task/person), administering management systems, and delivering education and training.

Steve Fairhurst's contemporary highlight is to uncover some unremarked statements among the old and trusted standard textbooks on toxicology.

Sheila Pantry concludes with an update on information sources and services which contains useful guidance on selecting a computer to meet the likely requirements of the budding health and safety hacker.

In all this seems a reasonably priced publication. The content is very up to date, topical, and varied (if somewhat patchy) as it seeks a universal readership challenged by rapid changes in many aspects of health and safety practice. To use an old fashioned term it is perhaps a "curate's egg"; some parts very readable and informative and some best kept for reference. It would be a useful adjunct to older standard texts and would help provide a contemporary shine to the examination candidate's answer.

I expect Sheila Pantry may well be moving towards a second edition by the end of the millennium.

JON HANCOCK


The author has aimed this book primarily at candidates for the Royal College of Physicians Faculty of Occupational Medicine (London) Associateship and Diploma, and for Licentiateship and Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He also commends it to occupational nurses, medical students, hygienists, and safety officers. For your money you get 256 questions and answers, padded out with lists of common causes of occupational asthma, occupational dermatitis, and contact dermatitis, a selection of exposure limits, a further reading list, six useful addresses, and five sheets of blank paper.

Membership of college qualifications now being a fact of life, the examinee has no choice but to come to terms with them, and this collection will both test knowledge of the facts and acquaint the reader with the nature and quality of the examination and by inference the examiner.

The author's claim to expertise is from sitting examinations, so if these questions are typical of what the reader will be up against, he is well worth listening to. In the introduction the examinee is cautioned not to look unduly for abruse meanings. The examinee will also be prepared for the examiner occasionally displaying fuzzy knowledge and being wrong at times. If these lessons are taken to heart, the reader will be better prepared for the examination and will have justified its price.

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