

of employees. The professional practice of occupational hygiene is under the control of the Institute of Occupational Hygienists, who have organised a session at the Conference looking at the New World of Work. Speakers include Dr P A Paulus, President of the American Academy of Industrial Hygiene (AAIH) and Larry Birkner, President of AAIH in 1994. The session will be under the chairmanship of Mr A T Gillies, President of the Institute of Occupational Hygienists 1995-6.

For further information, contact BOHS, Suite 2 Georgian House, Great Northern Road, Derby DE1 1LT. Tel + 44 (0)1332 298101; or Fax + 44 (0)1332 298099.

### Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Workshop. 22-29 March 1996. Norfolk, Virginia.

The Navy Environmental Health Center will host the 37th Navy Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine Workshop.

The workshop will feature over 150 courses and sessions in the areas of occupational health, preventive medicine, health promotion, environmental protection, and industrial hygiene. Participants may earn continuing education credit for over 10 professional organisations and designations.

Dr Stephen C Joseph, Secretary of Defence (Health Affairs), will address the opening session. The tri-service Military Audiology Short Course and the Navy Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) Conference will run concurrently.

For more information contact: Karen E Pollock (804) 363-5452/5508. The e-mail address is [workshop@ehc.50.med.navy.mil](mailto:workshop@ehc.50.med.navy.mil) and <http://ehc40.med.navy.mil/~workshop> on the world wide web.

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## BOOK REVIEW

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Book review editor: R L Maynard

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### Epidemiology of Work Related Diseases. Edited by MCDONALD C. (Pp 498; price £49.50.) 1995. London: BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-0856-1

The editor gives as his aim: "... to provide a concise statement of what is currently known about the epidemiology of the main groups of work-related disease and, at the same time, to review methodological issues which the research has identified. It is not a comprehensive manual of epidemiology...". As for the intended readership, the dust cover defines it as "... everyone concerned with the widespread and serious effects—immediate and long term—of work and health." The text however, makes greater demands than can be expected of this broad class of reader.

The first section of text is headed *Occupational cancer* and it includes chapters on: metals and chemicals; ionising radiation; electromagnetic fields; and mineral dusts and fibres. The first chapter condenses into a 26 page résumé of the epidemiology of eight metals and their compounds, and 11 chemical compounds and mixtures that have occupied hundreds of pages in IARC monographs. In a mere 18 pages of text the ionising radiation and cancer chapter tackles the scientific aspects of a complex problem area in a balanced way, noting where the jury is still out. Its author would have been well placed to inform the general reader of certain important facts of epidemiological life in relation to the saga of access to the Hanford data, the reassessments of bomb victim doses, and the size of population that would be required to evaluate low dose risk predictions. The chapter on electromagnetic fields as carcinogens, reviews the epidemiological evidence for a cancer risk from exposure to electric and magnetic fields in a balanced manner that does credit to an author involved in the field. His conclusion that: "More research is needed" reiterates that made at several conferences both on electromagnetic fields and RF over the past 30 years. The editor appropriately is author of the chapter on mineral dusts and fibres which covers asbestos, crystalline silica, and man made fibres. He has been an influential and a powerful participant in this controversial field, a measure of which is his contribu-

tion to over a fifth of the 93 references cited in this chapter. The publishers are to be congratulated on the appearance of this book and their ability to include in a book printed this year and received for review in August, a paper by Wilkinson P, *et al* published as recently as 29 April in *The Lancet*. On the other hand McDonald cites a Finnish paper of 1974 to the effect that anthophyllite has produced "... few if any cases of mesothelioma", when there are more recent publications from the authors that are less sanguine.

The section headed: *Non-malignant diseases* deals with such individual items as: asthma, dermatoses, neurobehavioural effects, noise and vibration, back and limb disorders, and work stress, but also includes chapters entitled work in agriculture, and work and pregnancy. The section on methodology has chapters dealing with study design, assessment of exposure, measurement of outcome, evaluation of preventive measures, and a mathematician friendly account of analysis and interpretation, stronger on analysis than on interpretation, suggesting that the title may not have been first choice of the excellent author. The book concludes with two discursive essays, in one of which the author (UK) writes under the title *Epidemiology and occupational medical practice*, and the other in which the author (US) discusses *Occupational epidemiology and public policy*. Both authors find that all is not lovely in the garden, objecting to the media and the courts, and lamenting the distrust of epidemiologists. Although their plaint has some substance, they do not inform the reader of the other side of the adversarial coin. Lip service is paid to the importance of the expertise of the occupational physician in occupational epidemiology, but the observer will note that the game is the preserve of the academics and that they do not seem to recruit physicians from the shop floor any more into academia.

MORRIS GREENBERG

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## CORRECTION

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Tsai PJ, Vincent JH, Wahl G, Maldonado G. **Occupational exposure to inhalable and total aerosol in the primary nickel production industry** (1995;52:793-9.)

Equation (1) on p794 was incorrect as published. It should read:

$$I = 0.5 (1 + \exp(-0.06 d_{50}))$$