2: occupational epidemiology. Issues to be discussed include: specific characteristics of occupational and environmental epidemiology, optimisation of exposure assessment in the design of studies in occupational and environmental epidemiology, concepts of exposure assessment, variability of exposure, exposure misclassification, exposure modelling techniques.

The target groups are epidemiologists with an interest in exposure assessment, hygienists with a background in epidemiology, exposure assessors, toxicologists, physicians, health professionals, biostatisticians and others with basic knowledge of epidemiology.

For further information contact: Ms Susan Peelen, MSc, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Wageningen, PO Box 238, 6700 AE Wageningen, The Netherlands. Tel: + 31 317 484124 Fax: + 31 317 482782. E-mail: Susan.Peelen@medew.hegl.wau.nl

ESCD/ACDS Jadassohn Centenary Congress. 9-12 October 1996. Kensington Town Hall Conference Centre, London.

The biennial Congress of the European Society of Contact Dermatitis is due to take place in London in October 1996. Much of the information to be discussed, and the attendant exhibition, could prove of interest to environmental or safety officers, those interested in the prevention of occupational and environmentally induced skin disease, company medical officers, and indeed researchers working within your subject area. They could learn of new ideas on the causes of such diseases which could assist them in making products and creating environments more conducive to skin health and indeed to discover new therapeutic solutions to the problems they may see.

For further details please contact: the Organising Secretariat: CCT Healthcare Communications. Tel: + 44 (0) 171 407 9731 Fax: + 44 (0) 171 403 5938 or + 44 (0) 171 378 9268. E-mail: 100572.3520@COMPUSERVE.COM

The 9th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases. 13-16 October 1997, Kyoto, Japan.

The conference is organised by the Japanese National Organising Committee for the Ninth International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour of Japan, the International Labour Office and the Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association.

The eight previous International Conferences on this theme, entitled International Conference on Pneumoconioses or on Occupational Lung Diseases, organised by the ILO in collaboration with various national institutions were held in: Johannesburg 1930; Geneva 1938; Sydney 1950; Bucharest 1971; Caracas 1978; Bochum 1983; Pittsburgh 1988; Prague 1992.

The conference will provide a forum for the exchange of scientific and technical information on the health effects of air pollutants at the workplace on the respiratory

system of exposed workers and on the prevention and control of respiratory diseases.

Themes:

epidemiology of occupational respiratory diseases; health surveillance of workers exposed to respiratory hazards; aetiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of occupational respiratory diseases; health hazard assessment by environmental and exposure monitoring; control measures against health hazards at the workplace; respiratory protective equipment; information, education and training on occupational respiratory diseases.

Working groups:

ILO international classification of radiographs of pneumoconioses; global action on elimination of silicosis; occupational respiratory allergies; natural and synthetic fibres; relation between occupational respiratory diseases and lung cancer.

Arrangements will be made for technical visits to occupational health laboratories and industrial plants in the Kyoto area.

The official languages of the Conference will be English, French, and Japanese. Other languages could be added, taking into account the expected number of participants requesting their availability.

For further information contact: The Secretariat of the National Organising Committee, The Ninth International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (9th ICORD), c/o Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA), 5-35-1, Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108, Japan. Tel: + 81-3-3452-6841 (Ex. 525 or 526); Fax: + 81-3-3453-8034.

The Skin From A to Z: Tips on Practical Therapy and Office Techniques. 2-3 November, 1996. University of California, San Francisco, California.

Presented by the Department of Dermatology of the University of California School of Medicine at San Francisco, this course is designed for the non-dermatologist, and it emphasises practical office dermatology. The UCSF Dermatology faculty present the most commonly seen dermatological problems and give specific suggestions for effective evaluation and treatment. Ample opportunity for questions and discussion with the faculty is provided.

Topics to be covered include:

- atopic dermatitis and diaper rash
- common pediatric infections and infestations
- common skin infections in adults
- hand dermatitis
- sun damage and sun protection and common skin tumours
- management of treatment-resistant psoriasis
- dry skin and seborrheic dermatitis
- sexually transmitted diseases
- human papilloma virus infections (warts)
- acne and rosacea
- simple office procedures
- drug eruptions
- new drugs and new indications for their use
- psychocutaneous medicine

UCSF is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. This program will meet the criteria for category 1 credit.

For further information contact: The Office of Continuing Medical Education, Room MCB-630, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143-0742, (415) 476-4251.

MSc course—Environmental Health. Edinburgh.

This is one of five specialised MSc courses on offer by the Department of Public Health Sciences of the University of Edinburgh. The course lasts one calendar year full time or two calendar years part time. The curriculum contains core and compulsory modules including the following subjects:

- general and environmental epidemiology
- applied statistics
- research methods and study design
- critical appraisal
- health risk assessment
- environmental health impact assessment
- health effects of pollution in various environments

Also, elective modules to permit study of some subjects in further depth are on offer—for example, in further statistics, international health, health promotion. A variety of teaching methods are used, including case studies, such as on air quality, and standard setting, and a dissertation is written and submitted during the course.

For further information contact: Rosa Bisset, Postgraduate Studies Secretary, Department of Public Health Sciences, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH8 9AG. Telephone: 0131 650 3227. Fax 0131 6506 909. E-mail address Rosa.Bisset@ed.ac.uk <http://www.ed.ac.uk/~rma/msc.html>

BOOK REVIEWS

Book review editor: R L Maynard

If you wish to order, or require further information regarding the titles reviewed here, please write or telephone the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WX1H 9TE. Tel: 0171 383 6244. Fax: 0171 383 6662. Books are supplied post free in the UK and for British Forces Posted Overseas addresses. Overseas customers should add 15% for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (MasterCard, VISA, or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and your full name. (The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.)

Patty's Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology. Vol III, part B, 3rd edition. Edited by CRALLEY LJ, CRALLEY LV, BUS JS (Pp 765, hardback; price £160) 1995. New York: John Wiley and Sons. ISBN 0-4715-3065-4.

There can be few industrial health professionals who do not regard Patty as the most comprehensive useful and authoritative ref-

erence work in their field. The chapters in this 10-book American *tour de force* have been prepared by specialists, mostly non-medical, having excellent scientific credentials and industrial experience. Despite the very substantial cost of the series, few companies having serious occupational health departments regard the investment as an unnecessary one. Occupational physicians, recognising that their work must be underpinned by an adequate grasp of scientific and engineering principles as well as medical knowledge, are increasingly turning to this clear and comprehensive source of up to date information.

Volume III Part B of the Patty series deals with the biological responses evoked in those who are exposed to harmful agents and stresses in the workplace. As well as toxic chemicals, the agents considered here cover a wide range which includes: electrostatic and magnetic fields; ionising, non-ionising (including radio frequency) and optical radiation; abnormalities of posture and motion induced by neglect of ergonomic principles; mechanical vibration; repetitive motion; and shift work. Much of the well illustrated material is as applicable to the office environment as to the factory.

This book also provides a clear summary of toxicological principles, which usefully complements the information on individual chemicals provided in Volume II. Major areas of toxicology are presented clearly and rigorously, and include testing for various forms of toxicity, including carcinogenic and reproductive effects. There is an excellent, balanced chapter on the much misunderstood topic of cancer risk assessment and an introduction to neurotoxicology. Helpful guidance on the assessment of toxicological data for the evaluation of chemical safety is provided, and there is a detailed chapter on the use of biological response indicators in the assessment of exposure, dosage, and burden.

Astute readers will have noticed that the new book reviewed here (Volume III Part B) forms part of the *third* edition of Patty, although books from the *fourth* edition may have been on their shelves for some time. The reason is that the individual books which comprise this large series are launched one at a time, as necessary. Those which make up Volumes I and II have now reached the fourth edition, while Volume III consists of two books each in their third editions. Volume I is devoted to general principles and consists of two books, Parts A and

B. Six books comprise Volume II, dealing with the toxicology of specific chemicals. The two books which make up Volume III focus on various aspects of the theory and rationale underlying industrial hygiene practice.

G DIGGLE

Recognition of Health Hazards in Industry. By WILLIAM A BURGESS. (Pp 538.) 1995. New York: John Wiley. ISBN 0471-577162.

Recognition of hazards is an essential part of occupational health practice. Occupational hygienists refer to recognition, evaluation, and control of hazards as key elements in their discipline. Occupational physicians and nurses use their clinical skills to evaluate fitness for work and make recommendations on prevention of ill health from workplace hazards. In these and other areas of occupational health, an understanding of workplace processes and materials used is essential for a proper evaluation of the possible risks to health. This book is therefore a useful resource in that it provides information on some common and interesting industrial processes. There are several sections on the use of metals—from the production of metals and metal product fabrication to metal finishing. There are chapters on the electronics industry, chemical processes, paint manufacture, plastics, textiles, and more.

The book is well illustrated with flow diagrams, diagrams showing sections of degreasing tanks, furnaces, reactors, and other machinery, and plenty of photographs including a molding line, machining tools, welding, and the use of diamond saws. The photographs are good examples of the type used in the slide exam for the associateship of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (AFOM). This should be sufficient reason for AFOM candidates to consider obtaining the book. Some of the flow diagrams are just a little too complicated—for example, the petroleum refinery, the sulphuric acid plant, and lead smelting. However, these processes are by nature complicated, and oversimplification of the flow diagrams will not necessarily help the understanding of such processes.

The author also provides lists of chemicals encountered in various industrial activities. For rubber products alone, there are

several tables showing the range of chemicals used as vulcanising agents, accelerators, and antioxidants. In the section on etching in the microelectronics industry, there is a list of different solutions used for etching a variety of materials. Obviously the health and safety practitioner performing risk assessments will need further information about the properties, toxicology, and epidemiology of these chemicals, and the extent of the worker exposure. The book has considered this by providing some information on the health effects. There are also exposure profiles indicating typical exposures in various industrial activities. Examples are results of personal sampling for dust and fume in copper smelting, concentrations of particulates in forging, and exposure to fumes and gases in welding.

Those who want to know more about processes as varied as arc welding, production of steel, and non-destructive testing of metals can refer to this book. Those with limited opportunities to visit places such as coal mines can read about what goes on in a coal mine and what hazards exist. And those who enjoy looking up exotic sounding terms such as carbon nitriding, gas carburising, annealing, scarfing, quenching, green sand molding, and hot box system will find them all included.

This is a gem of a book, very useful as a reference or for the enthusiast keen on understanding industrial processes. A must for all occupational health and safety practitioners.

T C AW

The Health and Safety Manager's Yearbook. A P INFORMATION SERVICES (Price £42.50.) 1996. London: AP Information Services. ISBN 0 9606247 59 4.

It is not often one can review the 1996 edition of a book in 1995! This *Handbook* is a directory of useful addresses and contact points for products and services across the full range of health and safety work. Introductory essays on topics of current concern are provided.

A useful source book which should be available to all who work in the Health and Safety area.

R L MAYNARD