but in many cases their properties still remain insufficiently understood. The subject has become so complex as to demand an authoritative and comprehensive sifting of the accumulated facts. The author modestly states that the merit of his book is to be found in the vast fund of information which research workers have contributed to this subject. Dr. Fairhall himself has played no small part in such researches during the past 30 years. He was responsible for the chemical studies in the famous Harvard investigation of lead poisoning, when he worked in collaboration with Aub, Minot, and Reznikoff. His knowledge and experience have enabled him to present a concise and comprehensive dissertation on the toxic effects of each substance discussed. The knowledge gained both from animal experiments and from accidents in industry is clearly set out, and each section of the book has a full bibliography.

Because of the development of new alloys many metals, rare or unknown a few years ago, are now assuming commercial importance. Dr. Fairhall sets out the evidence showing that so far no toxic effect has been discovered in workers handling cerium, gallium, indium, molybdenum, rhenium, titanium, tungsten, and zirconium. On the contrary he has a good deal to say as to the toxic effects of beryllium, cadmium, osmium, platinum, selenium, tellurium, uranium, and vanadium. The speed at which new substances are introduced into industry is shown by the omission in this book of any reference to the alkylpolyphosphates such as diethyl-para-nitrophosphoryl thiophosphate, "parathion". These substances have come into extensive use as insecticidal sprays and many people feel that they are too deadly for safe handling in factory, greenhouse, orchard and market garden. There is also no mention of the toxic hazard connected with the use of dinitro-ortho-cresol as a weed killer. This book is both a reference manual and an up-to-date critical study of industrial toxicology.

It will be of value alike to works chemists, works doctors, and physicians practising in industrial communities. The United States of America, which has lately produced many books on industrial medicine, is to be congratulated on this superb contribution from a chemist who is nothing less than a master toxicologist. Great Britain owes Dr. Fairhall an even greater debt than do his own countrymen because no book of this sort has ever been published in the British Isles.

Donald Hunter.


The third edition of this concise and readable book includes among its revisions and additions a valuable and simple survey of steroid chemistry and of the association of cortisone with the rheumatic diseases. The subject matter throughout is interesting and clear, and the reader is shown how slowly but surely recent research is correlating all the various and multiple factors at work in the causation of these abstruse and important diseases.

The subject is not dealt with from any narrow or specialist angle. All lines of approach are reviewed including surgical, biochemical, chemotherapeutic, and psychological methods of treatment. The tone is moderate and conservative. Focal sepsis is still deemed worthy of some consideration, although this aspect of rheumatism must in the past have hindered as much as helped research. Physiotherapy and spa treatment are not credited with any great magic, but are shown to be helpful not only physically but psychologically. The use of surgery in rheumatoid and osteo-arthritis is convincingly and plainly described, and the meaning of the various surgical terms simply explained.

In a book of this nature controversial matter is better avoided. Therefore the author wisely omits a detailed survey of many of the battles which have raged over the question of the prolapsed intervertebral disc. He prefers to think that there may still be room for the old concept of lumbago. Similarly with fibrositis, he does not side with those theorists who regard this as a mythical disease which will gradually disappear as knowledge grows. Nevertheless with great fairness he admits the scarcity of pathological evidence for its existence. At the moment, this attitude appears to be the balanced one. Only the future can show how far it is wrong or right.

From the industrial aspect, rheumatic diseases are of great importance, and all industrial medical officers will find this book a valuable work of reference.

G. P. B. W.