in the symposium, and it would be difficult to regard the subject as one of occupational health. Nevertheless, the papers presented are of rather special value to the industrial medical officer and should help him to give a reasonably assured, knowledgeable, and unhysterical view of the medical aspects of future atom-bomb attack. And in this respect the medical officer is always regarded as "one who should know". His experiences with hazard evaluation, casualty prevention, first aid, casualty disposal, group discipline and group morale can be of high value in such emergencies.

E. F. EDSON

The Industrial Safety Manual and Directory. Edited by J. Vernon Bosly, B.Comm. 1950. London: Practical Press, Ltd. Illustrated. Pp. 206. Price 25s. net.

In this book the Editor contributes a well balanced survey of the steps which should be taken to reduce hazards to health and safety; he discusses protective equipment, good housekeeping, and the education and training of management and workers. The provisions of the Factories Act in respect of accident prevention are set out in readable form, and the constitution and functions of a safety committee are described. There is a good account of the nature of mechanical hazards and the best ways of reducing them: common faults in electrical installations are illustrated by simple diagrams, and other chapters deal with dangerous chemicals, dust control, the risks of fire, and with ventilation, heating, and lighting. An interesting article points out the value of colour in the industrial environment; suitable colours are suggested for reducing the chance of accident in handling machines and in getting about.

Particulars are given of the principal organizations concerned with occupational health and welfare, and there is a useful list of periodicals and books on these subjects.

Finally, the book contains an alphabetical list of safety equipment and protective devices, which is cross-indexed with a list of firms and other agencies which supply these articles.

The Editor is to be congratulated on the production of this book, which is likely to be most helpful to all who are seeking to raise the standards of health and safety in industry.

D. C. NORRIS

Safety in the Chemical Laboratory. By H. A. J. Pieters and J. W. Creyghton. 1951. London: Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. Pp. 258. Price 15s.

This is a deadly serious book translated from the

Dutch. It is intended to be at the elbow of every technician to warn him of the risks of his job and to tell him how to work safely. It is doubtful if any book can replace or even aid the learning from precept and example that forms the basis of technical skill.

The style of this book is jerky, disordered, and repetitious. It is characterized by a mixture of pomposity ("a fire is an exothermic reaction, mostly between an oxidizable substance and oxygen") and of naivety ("special care should be taken in the storage and transport of glassware and chemicals"). The book owes its length to its repetitiveness and to the inclusion of much irrelevant material that has replaced the detailed consideration of safety measures that should be the main object. Thus the treatment of cuts and wounds is given three lines whereas methods for dust sampling occupy seven pages: radiation hazards in the modern chemical laboratory receive 15 unhelpful lines and the methods for the estimation of carbon monoxide in the air and in blood, 17 pages. The methods for the detection of alcohol in the breath, blood, and urine (pages 180-184) also seem out of place in a book on safety.

Quite apart from defects in style and proportion the book fails chiefly because it is an inadequate guide to the trivial as well as to the major problems in laboratory management. Such statements as, "Handling a pipette frequently causes accidents especially with iodine or alkali hydroxide solutions. A safety pipette or a pump should be used", on page 51 and repeated in essence on page 124, make up about a third of the book. If the technician is so inexperienced that he is unaware of these points he will not be helped much by this exhortation. If the advice is considered necessary it should be amplified by a description of the safety pipette and the way in which the pump is used. As an example of omission on a larger scale, the problem of chemical carcinogens can be considered. Chemical carcinogens are discussed briefly under the heading "Toxicity and Chemical Constitution", and a page is given to the structural formulae of seven of these. This space could have been put to better use by giving an account of the types of laboratory in which risk of exposure to carcinogens is known to occur, the precautions that are taken in such laboratories, and the supervision of personnel exposed to this particular risk. But detailed information of this sort is not to be found in this book.

F. A. DENZ