

PNEUMOCONIOSIS

Pneumoconiosis.—Modern Trends. Report of meetings held in Birmingham (April 1959) and in Glasgow (January 1960). Pp. 144. Illustrated. R1.85. London: The Chest and Heart Assoc. 1961.

This symposium, being a report of papers read at meetings held in 1959 and 1960, is an excellent review of modern views on the pneumoconioses. Prominence is given to coal-pneumoconiosis, but silicosis and some newer pneumoconioses are also dealt with.

Two important points emerge: (1) that simple pneumoconiosis is not a disabling disease, but that complicated pneumoconiosis certainly is, and (2) that there is a large group of workers, in dusty trades, who suffer from bronchitis or emphysema, but who, because they show no radiological evidence of pneumoconiosis, are not eligible for compensation. Professor Gough summarizes modern views on this problem when he states that the problem is not so much the mechanism of the development of emphysema in pneumoconiosis, but whether emphysema developing in the absence of pneumoconiosis is related to occupation.

As a symposium, by a group of eminent workers, it is excellent, concise, and informative.

L.G.W.

BACTERIOLOGY

Bakteriologie und Serologie. Ausgewählte Untersuchungsmethoden für das bakteriologische und serologische Laboratorium (Dritte Auflage). von Dr. Lthar Hallmann, Pp XV+961. DM: 96—Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1961.

The third edition of this work exceeds the first one by 317 pages. It is in general a lavishly produced book, written by a leading expert for the bacteriological and serological routine practice. The work gives a comprehensive account of all the problems that may be encountered in connection with the running of a microbiological laboratory. Practising microbiologists and technologists will derive benefit from a study of this book, which they can safely rely on for guidance.

The arrangement of the subject matter is logical and each chapter is dealt with in such a manner as to produce a clear, concise and

remarkably readable text. The book can be strongly recommended as an excellent overall summary in the field of Microbiology.

It would be to the advantage of English-speaking medical microbiologists and technicians to have this book translated into English.
H.D.B.

DERMATOLOGY

Atlas de Dermatologie en Couleurs (1952-61). De Graciansky, P. and Boule, S. Paris: Maloine. 1961.

Works on dermatology, more than those on any other branch of medicine, require clear and accurate illustrations if they are to be intelligible to any but the initiated. Atlases of dermatology illustrated with aquatints and lithographs are curious and entertaining, but must have been more confusing than edifying to those who had to use them. Such atlases continued to appear long after the discovery of photography, but have declined in popularity, except with book-collectors, since the advent of colour photography.

Colour photographs would, theoretically, be essential for illustrating skin diseases, but there are drawbacks. Accuracy in colour reproduction does not always go with sharpness in outline, and few colour processes will always, or even often, illustrate the details of a dermatosis as well as the best black and white photographs. More important, a book on dermatology illustrated only with really good colour photographs is prohibitively expensive. The first problem has been solved in De Graciansky and Boule's *Atlas de Dermatologie en Couleurs*. This work, finally completed after 9 years, contains 401 superb photographs that faithfully reproduce the colour changes of the dermatoses while giving sharpness of detail as good as can be obtained in black and white. All the common skin diseases and some of the rarities are depicted, and there are 1,300 pages of text with photomicrographs in black and white.

The authors must be congratulated on producing an atlas that is almost comparable to a visit to their seat of operations, the Saint-Louis Hospital in Paris. Unhappily, at 750 new francs, it is likely to be beyond the means of many who should possess it.

J. M.