The strengths of the book are in its easily readable style and in the way in which laboratory techniques and methods, and the limitations of these, are appropriately interspersed with the clinical problems they have been designed to help solve. There is emphasis on the need for proper and relevant requests, the importance of proper specimens, the proper use of serological tests and a more rational approach to antibiotic use all bear the stamp of an author experienced in the problems at first hand. The concept of the microbiological ward round starting daily in the pharmacy is one which many consultant microbiologists could well emulate provided of course that this does not lead to the neglect of daily laboratory supervision of which we are warned in Chapter 3.

It is inevitable that this very personal and enthusiastic book which is really the first of its kind should, in achieving a readable style, sacrifice some literary and microbiological precision which longer and more comprehensive books might achieve.

Many might enjoy the apparently random selection from the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* which introduces not only every chapter, but certain parts within a chapter; if these quotations have somehow helped Dr Grüneberg to maintain his momentum then they may be forgiven. Others may be irritated by an exanthem of brackets which appears to pervade the earlier rather than the later chapters; again, these serve to give a technical definition to non-technical descriptions and as such may be almost unavoidable. There are some anomalies which creep in when general principles are illustrated by specific examples in brackets: it was probably never the author's intention to suggest that the use of tetanus antitoxin should await the isolation of the organism nor is it strictly accurate to suggest that antibiotic-associated colitis is an example of resistant organisms invading tissues after the use of broad spectrum antibiotics. It is to be hoped that the emphatic statement that any child 'under the age of five years brought to see a general practitioner should have a urine sample cultured' will be regarded as illustrative rather than mandatory.

Nonetheless this is an important and enjoyable book written by an enthusiast whose optimism allows him to think in terms of a world-wide antibiotic policy in the future: it can be thoroughly recommended for medical libraries, and should be obligatory reading for junior hospital doctors and indeed all those who use clinical microbiological services.

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Occupational Hygiene. An Introductory Guide

By A. L. JONES, D. M. W. HUTCHESON and S. M. DYMOTT.
Pp. 182, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, 1981. £9.95.

I recently reviewed for this Journal the new edition of Schilling's *Occupational Health Practice*. At that time I said that some of the chapters filled the gaps in medical training of the extra disciplines required for the practice of occupational medicine. One such gap was occupational hygiene. This new introductory guide to occupational hygiene provides a further summary of this topic.

A full understanding of occupational hygiene is as essential to the occupational physician as a knowledge of epidemiology and statistics is to the present day medical graduate. The hygienist is one of the health team in industry reducing by his work opinions to facts. Doctors must also recognize that the occupational health nurse is also a member of that team and today is sometimes not only better trained than the physician to carry out some of the environmental measures but also has more time than the part-time occupational

physician to devote to such tasks. One of the co-authors of this book is a senior occupational health nurse thus underlining the role of the nurse in this field.

The opening chapters provide simple basic physiological and chemical principles. The book then goes on to describe the techniques of measurement including the planning of surveys and, very briefly, biological monitoring—still essential to measure the success or failure of environmental control measures in the workplace. There are useful lists of industrial hygiene consultants, suppliers of sampling equipment and a glossary of terms and abbreviations. Each chapter has an adequate bibliography of suggested further reading.

It is a clear, concise and well written introduction to occupational hygiene, although expensive even by today's prices.

The authors recommend the book as both a learning and reference text for safety officers, safety representatives and occupational health nurses. I would suggest that occupational physicians, especially those working part-time, could also usefully study this book if only to equip themselves to deal with the questions posed to them by the authors' suggested readers armed with the knowledge derived from this book.

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Rehabilitation of the Hand

By C. B. WYNN PARRY. 4th edn. Pp. xv+409, illustrated.
Butterworths, London, 1981. £30.00.

Each of the previous editions of this unique book has been an improvement on the last and this is no exception. The title has always suggested a volume of more specialized and limited appeal than does a thorough reading of the text which has always covered far more than matters relating to the hand alone—anatomically up as far as the cervical nerve roots and in the best traditions of rehabilitation out into the community and the workplace where the success of the measures applied meet the sternest test.

The fourth edition has been considerably rewritten without becoming intolerably weighty in the process. There is some excellent new material on pain mechanisms, measurement and on pain treatment. Particularly since sceptics have had their suspicions about visual analogue scales confirmed by the observations of Bird and Wright that anyone presented with such a scale tends to mark it at a point corresponding to the golden section, one would tend to dissent from the view that 'it is now accepted that the use of a visual analogue scale is a valid and reproducible means of assessing pain'. But in this book other validated means are explained in detail. There is much in this section of interest to those who might profess no interest in rehabilitation. Likewise the clarity and detailed exposition of the proper use of electrodiagnostic methods makes the book essential reading for anyone in neurology, orthopaedics or rheumatology who asks for or performs electromyography or nerve conduction tests.

There are many texts in which long accepted positions on difficult topics are merely reiterated. One of the great virtues of the author's experience and perceptive approach is that such views are challenged and where necessary firmly rejected, as for instance in the case of Sudeck's atrophy being related to the type of personality. I am delighted to see that Wynn Parry dismisses this ill founded view which prejudices the management of patients from the outset. His review of

the modes of treatment for this condition is extensive but a mention of the recent work with calcitonin might be included in the next edition. There is also an excellent evaluation of galvanic stimulation for denervated muscle with a refreshing conclusion as to its proper use in the recovery stage and the firm rejection of amputation as the best treatment for the flail limb is well argued from long and wide experience. The section of the rheumatoid hand shows perhaps undue optimism regarding the outcome of surgery in some respects, that on the stiff hand is of very high quality and those on principles of rehabilitation and on resettlement reinforce the view that this is a book which every occupational therapy and physiotherapy department should own and every physician in rheumatology or rehabilitation should read for sheer pleasure—but ensure that he has his own separate copy!

The book is superbly produced, the illustrations are a model of clarity and the type-face makes for ease of reading even for the visually handicapped, in short it cannot be too highly recommended.

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Tutorials in Clinical Rheumatology

By DOUGLAS N. GOLDING. Pp. 140. Pitman, London, 1981. £5.95.

I enjoyed reading this little book. This is probably because it is always interesting to peer, metaphorically speaking, over a colleague's shoulder to see how his clinical practice compares with one's own: a sort of clinical voyeurism. The author takes a modified problem-orientated approach to discuss patients with quite common problems and certainly on looking through the book I came across many familiar rheumatic problems.

The book is aimed at undergraduates, MRCP candidates, the early period of rheumatology specialist training and possibly general practitioners. It would not be much help to casualty officers who rather badly need a very concise guide dealing with casualty department rheumatic problems. I think this book succeeds in its aim and will be a useful but limited addition to the literature.

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