controls can be introduced using traditional case control methodology.

The book has no final chapter which attempts to identify areas where potential problems might exist and is too diplomatic to emphasize those areas, countries and districts which are at the top or bottom of the league table. The maps are allowed to speak for themselves. The following list gives the worst 10 areas based on the summary score of avoidable deaths. It represents the sum of the number of standard deviations (×10) by which each indicator exceeds the expected (i.e. 100) for each indicator. It is a composite score based on 15 diseases and has excluded maternal and perinatal mortality.

`Worst’ 10 Areas:-`

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Napoli</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Caserta</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Torino</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Berlin (West)</td>
<td>FRG</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Catania</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bayern</td>
<td>FRG</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Brescia</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Milano</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nord</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Greater</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Italy with 6 of the 10 worst areas and the Federal Republic with 2 need to respond to these warning signs. Although the findings are indeed dramatic they appear so because of the nature of the presentation. Although described as a method of alerting us to warning signals of the inadequacy of health services, it does carry the danger that some will start to draw inferences without acknowledging the other warnings signals of the limitations of the method. I would have preferred a more extended introduction or discussion which could have placed this attempt at ‘quality assessment’ in its wider context. Had Donabedian been on the European panel I think he would have insisted on it.

The strength of the book is that it represents the successful collection of comparable data from many different countries and the clear presentations of the data in map form. The production is European both in concept and in language with the first four chapters being in English, French and German.

Nevertheless, the researchers are to be congratulated on their collaborative effort. J espère que cet ouvrage encouragera des recherches ultérieures sur le financement et l'organisation des services de santé dans la CEE et den Weg für eine zukünftige Zusammenarbeit der Forscher innerhalb der Gemeinschaft auf diesem Gebiet eben wird – or ‘Vorsprung durch Technik’ ....... as they say ......

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References


Dr Herzog of Basel is editor of a series of monographs on Progress in Respiration Research. Volume 23 is written by an author who is a helpful contributor to the Postgraduate Medical Journal including a recent Review of Respiratory Diseases. He now gives us a modern account of hypersensitivity pneumonitis or what is commonly termed extrinsic allergic alveolitis in Europe. There is a scholarly account of the immunopathogenesis, clinical features, radiology, pulmonary function tests, and the value of serum precipitins, skin tests and bronchoalveolar lavage. The differential diagnosis is exhaustive, providing well-balanced accounts of its differences from sarcoidosis, fibrosing alveolitis, connective tissue disorders, occupational lung disease, pulmonary vasculitis and granulomatous infections. This means that the reader is offered more than a profile of one group of disorders; he will receive an excellent compact digest of pulmonary diseases with up-to-date references and a good index.

Enjoy charming little accounts of such pulmonary oddities as spatelese lung, potato riddlers’ lung, goose feather disease, suberosis, alginite hypersensitivity, seaweed sensitivity, and blue cheese disease.

This monograph is a joy to read and an excellent reference source.

D. Geraint James
Royal Free Hospital London NW3


This is the second edition of a very popular ‘pocket’ handbook for House Officers and Medical Students, in which each subject occupies one page, with a blank page opposite for readers’ comments and additions. The first edition, published in 1985, succeeded in combining a wealth of useful information for the House Officer with a practical approach to problems which he or she would meet on the ward. The second edition has been updated and expanded to incorporate comments made by readers. It also includes references to the Oxford Textbook of Medicine.

The initial section includes some excellent and humane advice about the approach to the patient and his disease. A welcome addition is the ‘Dictionary of Symptoms and
Hypersensitivity
Pneumonitis: a clinical approach
D. Geraint James

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