

Book Reviews

Industry and Tropical Health. Proceedings of the First Industrial Tropical Health Conference, sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health, December 8-10, 1950. Boston: Harvard School of Public Health, 1951. (Published for the Industrial Council for Tropical Health.) 292 pp. and appendix. \$10.00.

The First Industrial Tropical Health Conference was organized by the Harvard School of Public Health to bring together a selected group of industrial physicians experienced in tropical medicine and tropical public health and executives of various corporations having extensive tropical operations. It was believed that exchange of information and discussion of problems might be helpful to the organizations concerned and contribute to a pattern of education in industrial medicine oriented to the special problems of the tropics.

The book is arranged in 12 sections corresponding to the conference sessions. Among the topics included are discussions of industry and health in the Middle East, in tropical Africa, in the Far East, and in tropical America; and organization of industrial health services, nutrition, infectious diseases and problems of control, and industrial health hazards. The contents are well indexed.

This volume is a unique and valuable contribution, since it presents the views of authoritative individuals in tropical corporation management and those of physicians experienced in the development and administration of industrial medical services in the tropics. As one of the essayists points out: "Tropical industry differs from domestic industry in that labor and environment are substandard. . . ." And, "Stabilization of labor is the key to a successful . . . venture in the tropics." Accomplishment of this objective is beset by many difficulties. Communicable diseases and malnutrition in many areas create both shortage and physical inefficiency of labor. Illiteracy and social anthropologic factors create barriers to the acceptance of the scientific approach to problems of treatment and prevention. Frequently, national laws or demands of labor complicate the development and operation of an industrial medical service. It is not surprising that costs are high—in the case of one corporation approximating 4.5 per cent of the tropical payroll—nor that these costs have been a deterrent to the development of effective programs in tropical industrial medicine.

Emphasis is placed on the fallacy of separating curative and preventive medicine and upon the essential importance of the latter. Uncontrolled curative medicine rapidly becomes prohibitively expensive. It is pointed out that the ultimate objective of a tropical medical service for industry should be a cooperative relationship among government health agencies, professional associations, and industry to improve sani-

tation and health conditions and facilities for medical care in the area.

This volume represents a significant contribution to the growing field of tropical industrial medicine—a complex spectrum of exotic medicine, epidemiology, sociology and anthropology, economics, and business administration. It is regrettable that certain of the topics could not have been amplified and additional ones included, but one hopes that, in accordance with the concept of the sponsors, it will lead to further development of this field. The book will well repay study by the physician interested in tropical industrial medicine as well as by the management of industry operating in the tropics.

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Elsevier's Encyclopaedia of Organic Chemistry: Carboisocyclic Condensed Compounds, Series III; Tetracyclic and Higher-Cyclic Compounds except Steroids and Triterpenes, Vol. 14, Suppl. F. Radt, Ed. Amsterdam-Houston: Elsevier Pub., 1951. 938 pp.; 113 pp. index. \$88.00; set subscription price, \$66.00.

Elsevier's Encyclopaedia of Organic Chemistry is a compilation in English on the chemical and physical properties and on the most important physiological properties of organic compounds. Several volumes have already appeared since 1946, and previous reviews have described the general outline of the planning and mode of presentation. The authors have wisely confined their initial efforts in this tremendous undertaking to Series III, Carboisocyclic Condensed Compounds, because of the general interest in such compounds and the lack of adequate assemblage of information in this area.

The present volume is the first of two parts of a supplement to Volume 14 on Tetra- and Higher-Cyclic Compounds, which appeared in 1946. Volume 14 covered the literature through 1936. This part of the supplement embraces all the literature between 1937 and 1946, including patents, on tetra- and higher isocyclic compounds, with the exception of steroids and triterpenes, which will form the contents of the second part. Investigations that involve a change of structure of substances previously described in the literature are considered up to 1951. The number of pages of literature between 1937 and 1946 on this subject is many times the number prior to 1937; the number of ring systems has increased 60 per cent. The expansion of research in this field may be realized by noting the 938 pages devoted to this part of the supplement as compared with the 611 pages in the main volume. The subject and formula indices cover all entries in the main as well as in the supplemental volumes.