Until July, 1948, when the National Insurance (Industrial Injuries) Act replaced the old compensation laws, certification carried with it the further disability of suspension from mining. This unfortunate policy led to much bitterness through enforced unemployment and undoubtedly reduced the numbers who might have applied for benefit. Now, certain men are allowed to continue working under "approved conditions", provided they are not also suffering from superimposed tuberculosis.

The South Wales problem is beset with every conceivable adverse factor. The nature of the disease itself presents difficulties. Correlation between radiological appearances and degree of disability is low, and prognosis is uncertain—some cases progress steadily, others remain stationary or may even regress. Because the chief symptom is breathlessness on exertion, many men are unable to manage the long hilly walks which normally separate their homes from the buses running up and down the valleys. If they can surmount this obstacle, the only work obtainable is often heavy, unskilled labouring—quite unsuited to their disability. If they can manage the work, the job, being casual, frequently ends in redundancy. The available light work is often taken up by women, and many employers are reluctant to take on men disabled through pneumoconiosis.

The medical aspects of the disease, including the grading system used in the Cardiff Unit, are discussed and the legal aspects surveyed. The report is concise, well-documented, and informative. It poses many questions, few of them purely medical, the most important problem being the control of dust in the mines without which pneumoconiosis is inevitable. To rehabilitate those already disabled, a far greater national effort is required to establish alternative industries in the mining valleys, for the disabled men must have a chance to be useful members of the community, able and willing to do a reasonable day's work.

This report should be read by all concerned with the social and economic problems of Great Britain as well as by workers in the field of industrial medicine.

CATHERINE SWANSTON

New Discoveries in Medicine: their Effect on the Public Health. By PAUL R. HAWLEY, M.D. 1950. Columbia University Press, New York. Pp. 134, 15 illus. (\$2.50; 16s.).

In the Bampton lectures delivered at Columbia University in 1949, Dr. Paul Hawley reviews some of the more dramatic advances made in medical science during the past quarter of a century. His first talks, devoted to what he appropriately calls "our fabulous blood", include an excellent account of the practice of blood transfusion and of the advances made in the two world wars. He gives a clear picture of the mechanism of the Rh factor, but his suggestion that the young man who is an Rh-positive heterozygote should be told this at an early age and advised to "avoid mating with an Rh-negative female" is unlikely to be taken seriously. It is to be feared that love laughs not only at locksmiths but also at biological obstacles.

In other lectures Dr. Hawley describes some modern developments in surgery, especially in thoracic and mental disorders, the latter with particular reference to pre-frontal leucotomy. Finally he discusses the organization of medical services in a community, and briefly describes the various insurance schemes operating in the United States for the prepayment of medical costs. He reviews the National Health Service in Great Britain, and, though endorsing the principle, points out the inevitable early defects of its implementation, showing that increased patient-demands with no corresponding increase in medical personnel have led to more medical attention but less personal medical care. Abuses of the service are impossible to prevent, and its costs have been much underestimated. There is much truth in these criticisms, as three years of nationalized medicine have all too clearly shown, but neither Dr. Hawley nor anyone else seems able, as yet, to suggest a remedy.

This is a readable little book, presenting useful information in an attractive manner.

CATHERINE SWANSTON