

controlled clinical trials before a new vaccine is introduced. With the recent increase in coverage for the existing whole cell vaccine and the consequent declining incidence of disease, there is now no opportunity to obtain such data in the United Kingdom. This inevitably raises the question of whether the sustained efforts of epidemiologists and laboratory workers that will be needed to bring the prospect of acellular vaccines into reality can be justified at a time when resources available for other aspects of health care are inadequate.

ELIZABETH MILLER
Public Health Laboratory Service
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre
London

The Health of the Nation: The BMJ View. Ed Richard SMith. (Pp 237; £9.95.) London: BMJ Publications, 1991. ISBN 0-7279-0314-4.

This book consists of 30 articles, plus some of the correspondence which followed, published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1991 commenting on the UK government's consultation paper "Health of the Nation". The authors are in the main distinguished clinicians, with a few public health physicians, and three from the BMJ staff. The content is mostly hard to fault, but one might ask: why buy the book now? When published, the articles were topical comment intended to influence government thinking: but that was a year ago, and the definitive white paper is now out, leaving us with little else to do but spot the winners and losers.

I think the book will remain useful for a few years as a topic primer for students new to public health: not comprehensive, but covering a lot of interesting ground, and each article short enough to be read by the hard pressed student before a seminar. The government document was about a health strategy for England, so most of the comment in this book is about the English scene, which will limit its value elsewhere.

E G JESSOP
Wessex Institute for Public Health

Short Reviews

Health Systems and Public Health Medicine in the European Community. By Mark McCarthy and Sian Rees. (Pp 81; price not stated.) London: Royal College of Physicians, 1992. ISBN 1-873240-44-9.

The European Community has ensured mutual recognition between member countries of medical degrees, both for graduates and specialists, and the single market will

require even closer cooperation for the transfer of pharmaceuticals and health insurance across national borders. This book provides an up to date account of the structure and financing of ambulatory and hospital care, and public health services of each of the 12 EC countries. It describes the particular place of public health medicine in each country and discusses the need and opportunities for development and integration of training of this medical speciality.

Health Dimensions of Economic Reform. (Pp 68; SF15.) Geneva: WHO, 1992. ISBN 92-4-156146-7.

There has been some complacency with regard to ill health following on industrialisation, greater life expectancy, and the far reaching changes in lifestyles and values now taking place. This book analyses how health can become an essential component of socioeconomic decision making. It illustrates how objectives for the protection and improvement of health status and quality of life can be defined at the very outset along with macroeconomic objectives, and that processes of adjustment can achieve both sets of objectives simultaneously.

Handbook of School Health. Medical Officers of Schools Association. (Pp 236; £18.95.) Trentham Books, 1992. ISBN 0-948080-66-3.

The Handbook is the regular official publication of the Medical Officers of Schools Association and covers all aspects of the health and medical care of school children. The new and entirely revised 1992 edition deals with many school medical issues and contains chapters on preventive medicine, immunisation and examinations, psychology and psychiatry of childhood, sports injuries, safety and adventure activities. The Handbook is written in an accessible style and may be read by nurses and teachers as well as by doctors concerned with school medical services.

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems—10th Revision 1992. (Pp 1243; \$US117.) Geneva: WHO, 1992. ISBN 92-4-154419-8.

The 10th revision of ICD now available reflects the classification's continuing refinement and expansion. Conditions have been regrouped in order to increase the level of clinical detail and enhance ease of use while retaining the classification's sensitivity for its traditional epidemiological and statistical uses. It is now presented in three separate volumes, allowing independent access to the tabular list; all related definitions, standards, rules and instructions; and the alphabetical index. ICD 10 comes in to force on 1 January 1993.

F G R FOWKES

NOTICES

International Conference: "1993, The European Year of the Elderly: Healthy Aging". Date: 18-20 March 1993; place: World Trade Centre Rotterdam; contact address: SOGG, PO Box 23115, 3001 KC Rotterdam, The Netherlands; tel 31 10 436 7577, fax 31 10 436 7273.

International Conference on Chronic Diseases and Changing Care Patterns in an Aging Society. Date: 9-11 June 1993. Place: Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Deadline for abstracts: October 31, 1992. Further details from: Dr Trudi van den Bos, Institute of Social Medicine, University of Amsterdam, Meibergdreef 15, 1105 AZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands; tel 31 20 5664707; fax 31 20 6912401.

10th International Conference on Quality Assurance in Health Care. Date: June 20-23, 1993; place: Maastricht, The Netherlands; contact address: Conference Agency Limburg, PO Box 1402, 6201 BK Maastricht, The Netherlands; tel 31 43 619192, fax 31 43 619020.

13th Scientific Meeting of The International Epidemiological Association: "New Pathways in Epidemiology". Date: September 26-30, 1993; place: Sydney, Australia; contact address: Conference Secretariat, 13th Scientific Meeting of the IEA, PO Box 746, Turrumurra 2074, NSW, Australia; tel 61 2 449 1525, fax 61 2 488 7496.

The 24th International Congress on Occupational Health will take place in Nice, France, on September 26—October 1 1993. The aims of the congress are to bring together professionals in occupational medicine from around the world and to promote the development of scientific knowledge in the field. For further information contact: C O 24 France, "Les Miroirs", Cedex 27, 92096 Paris La Defense, France. Tel 33-1 47 62 33 70; Fax 33-1 47 62 31 53.

6th International Congress for Infectious Diseases. Date: April 26-30, 1994; place: Prague, Czechoslovakia; contact address: Norman R Stein, International Society for Infectious Diseases, 180 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA. Tel 617-432-2270; Fax 617-731-1541.