The book covers statistical methods pertinent to all the study designs commonly encountered in epidemiology. Without needing to go beyond knowledge of logarithms and simple algebraic manipulation, the reader is led toward a thorough understanding of techniques as diverse as Mentel-Haenszel estimation, conditional logistic regression, and Cox’s regression method for survival data. The important point is that having completed the book the reader should grasp the essential unity of the statistical approach. Moreover, along the way the reader will have encountered many quite active ideas which are of great relevance to the interpretation of epidemiological data but are not readily accessible elsewhere.

This is an excellent book which can be strongly recommended to anyone who has some prior knowledge of epidemiological methods; it would well complement an intermediate or advanced course in epidemiology. Despite employing elementary mathematics it is a demanding book requiring considerable concentration from the reader. This is a consequence of the subject matter and not of any failing in the author’s powers of presentation.

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NOTICES

International Course "Modern Epidemiology", 15-18 May, in Lunteren, The Netherlands. Topics will be: case-control research principles, interaction in aetiology, statistics vs epidemiologic analyses. Further information: Mrs A van Alst, Course Secretary, Department of Epidemiology, University of Nijmegen, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 80 619132; fax: +31 80 613505.


Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology and the International Society for Exposure Analysis, 30 August-1 September 1995, Noordwijk, The Netherlands. Further information: Ms S Peelen, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Wageningen, PO Box 238, 6700 AE Wageningen, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 8370 84124; fax: +31 8370 82872; e-mail: susan.peelen@medew.hgwl.wau.nl.

Epidemiology in Occupational Health (11th International Symposium), 5-6 September 1995, Noordwijk, The Netherlands. Further information: Ms S Peelen, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Wageningen, PO Box 238, 6700 AE Wageningen, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 8370 84124; fax: +31 8370 82872; e-mail: susan.peelen@medew.hgwl.wau.nl.

Fourth Meeting of the British Epidemermo-Epidemiology Society (BEES), 20 January 1995, Nottingham. BEES was established to promote epidemiological research into all forms of skin disease, with emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach. For further information contact: Melanie Bowesman, Secretary to Dr Hywel Williams, Department of Dermatology, C Floor, South Block, Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH. Tel: 0115 942 1421. Fax: 0115 970 9003.


Short Reviews


Consider the developments of health care from 1500 onwards. Argue that the strengths and limitations of health systems in different countries are only understandable in terms of their evolution from past practices and structures, many of which are difficult to change.


These conference proceedings look at the effect upon human health of environmental changes such as climate, sea level, and chemical pollution of air, water, and soil.

The implication of the major health challenges in the Americas for training international health workers, the experiences in training such workers, and also the concept of international health and guidelines for future work are reviewed.


The Tomlinson Report proposed radical changes in health services, medical education and research in London which have a bearing on such provisions in many other large cities both in the United Kingdom and other developed countries. Concentrating specialist services in fewer units, rationalising acute beds in hospitals and investing in primary and community care are recommended.