THOMPSON, W. GILMAN. *The Occupational Diseases*. Pp. xxvi, 724. Price, \$6.00. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1914.

The author sums up the purpose of this book in his preface:

"This work which is the first of its kind to be published in this country is designed primarily for physicians interested in the subject of the occupational diseases of modern life, and also as a guide to students of social economics, social service workers, insurance actuaries, and those whose special interests deal with problems of labor legislation, or with workers in the chemical, textile, and many other manufactures or trades in which the health of the worker is closely related to problems of efficiency and humanitarian effort."

The book is divided into seven parts which deal respectively with: (1) history, classification, general pathology and etiology, (2) general remedial measures, (3) diseases due to irritant substances, (4) diseases due to harmful environment, (5) special occupational diseases, (6) influence of special conditions, (7) miscellaneous diseases not otherwise treated.

To the layman, the most interesting part is the one in which general remedial measures are discussed. The presentation of the place and purpose of educational measures affecting the employer, workman, physician, public and the press is particularly suggestive. No less able is the treatment of the hygiene of the work place and that of the workman.

Almost one-half of the pages are devoted to the diseases caused by toxic substances such as metals, gases, fluids and dusts. Here each substance is separately considered under the various headings of mode of poisoning, symptoms, prognosis, prevention and treatment. Usually the process of manufacture in which the danger is met is explained.

In another part the author presents in detail the reaction of the various organs to specific poisons. Prophylaxis and treatment are emphasized throughout.

The appendix contains interesting summaries. Many dangerous substances are tabulated under harmful substance, industry where prepared and used, mode of entrance into body and diseases or symptoms. Other tabular lists contain the industries in which workers are subjected to special hazard, and principal industries in which dust is the chief source of dangers.

The illustrations, tables and quotations are copious and illuminating.

The author has given us a valuable and much needed reference book. It should have increasing usefulness as a text book. It is a notable contribution to the literature of a very interesting and important subject.

ALEXANDER FLEISHER.

New York.

TILLET, ALFRED W. *Introduction to Herbert Spencer's Synthetic Philosophy*. Pp. xx, 177. Price 5/-. London: P. S. King & Son, 1914.

To the ponderous intellect of Herbert Spencer we are indebted more than to any other for the unification of human knowledge. His system of synthetic philosophy, despite its inadequacy and its positive errors, will remain one of the supreme achievements of the human mind. Yet the ten volumes with their more than six thousand pages are destined also to remain a colossal enigma