

6129. Occupational and environmental cancers of the urinary system - Hueper W.C. - YALE UNIV.PRESS (New Haven) 1969 (465 p.) \$ 20.00

This book starts with an account of the epidemiology of cancers of the urinary system and a survey of the possible etiological factors involved. The suggestions that chronic cystitis or the prolonged presence of calculi in the bladder predispose non specifically to bladder cancer in the absence of exposure to a true carcinogen are vigorously repudiated, and the author reasserts his views that diethylene glycol and polyoxyethylene(8)stearate are bladder carcinogens. The second and third chapters concern the role of aromatic amino, azo-, and nitro compounds as etiological agents and the epidemiology of cancers of the urinary tract and other sites associated with occupational exposure to such agents. Some of the same ground was covered in T.S. Scott's (1962) Monograph 'Carcinogenic and Chronic Toxic Hazards of Aromatic Amines' (Elsevier; Amsterdam), but the present author's account is especially interesting as it includes passing references to his own bitter struggle with industrial companies to obtain reliable information of the incidence of bladder cancer in their workers and to introduce appropriate measures to protect them. Also, much of Hueper's account concerns events since 1961. Medical and biological aspects of carcinogenesis by aromatic amines are discussed in the fourth chapter. The value of medical surveillance, especially the examination of urine for blood and exfoliated cells, is stressed as a means of detecting the presence of a bladder carcinogen in the environment of a group of workers. The view, expressed by Temkin (1963) in his book entitled 'Industrial Bladder Carcinogenesis' (Pergamon; Oxford), that the screening of urine for abnormal cells, combined with cystoscopy where abnormal cells are present, improves the chances of prolonged survival of individual workers, is quoted but not discussed. The possibilities that endogenous aromatic amines and metabolites of tryptophan are of etiological significance in relation to the occurrence of bladder cancer in man are discussed in the sixth chapter. The involvement of tryptophan metabolites is relegated to the realm of unproven but interesting speculations. Despite his well known disbelief in the importance of tobacco smoke in the causation of lung cancer, the author devotes more than half of a short chapter on combustion products of carbonaceous matter to a discussion on the possible role of smoking in the etiology of urinary tract cancer. On this he concludes that the epidemiological evidence is still insufficient to conclude that a causative association exists. The remaining chapters are concerned with the role of ionizing radiation, parasites - particularly *Schistosoma haematobium* - and various miscellaneous agents, and with the legal and public health aspects of the control of urinary tract cancer. A useful and fairly comprehensive bibliography, in which titles of papers are given and a less comprehensive index occupy the last 95 pages of the book. The text and reference list are somewhat marred by careless typographical errors. The usefulness and importance of this book is not, in the reviewer's opinion diminished by its being, in places, controversial. (Roe - London)