BOOK REVIEWS

Price: £29.95. 932 pp.

This book has a number of contributors, predominantly specialist occupational health (OH) physicians, but experts from other relevant disciples such as occupational psychology, environmental medicine, toxicology and occupational hygiene. The editorial team, all well known in OH circles, has managed to put these contributions together and produce an authoritative addition to the Oxford Handbook series.

The target audience for this book is OH doctors and nurses, general practitioners working in OH and OH trainees, but some of the content is also suitable for non-clinical professionals working within the field of OH and safety.

The book is in 12 sections covering six main areas: occupational hazards, occupational diseases, OH practice, specialist disciplines (hygiene, law, epidemiology, etc.), practical procedures and emergencies.

Each section is subdivided into several chapters which provide succinct overviews of a range of pertinent OH topics. For example, the section on OH practice covers a variety of subjects from operational issues to ethics. Similarly, the section on occupational hazards includes a range of issues from ionizing radiation to shift work.

The chapters are easy to read, and where relevant, there are accompanying references, evidence-based guidelines, legislation, other pertinent guidance and web sites.

The book seems to be a comprehensive resource, but understandably trying to cover such a broad-based specialty in a ‘handbook’ means that the authors have had to be selective about some of the topics covered. Nevertheless, this new edition to the Oxford Handbook series is comprehensive in coverage of a range of areas in OH and has ready references for most topics. Those working in clinical OH practice would certainly benefit from having this book available in their clinics.

Rating
★★★★★ (Essential for the bookshelf)

Dipti Patel
e-mail: dipti_p_patel@hotmail.com