

*Book Reviews*

will, and it will then be the turn of another generation to go in search of times past and produce yet another volume of tributes such as these.

F. N. L. POYNTER

*Arbeitsmedizin im 18. Jahrhundert. Werksarzt und Arbeiter im Quecksilberbergwerk Idria.* ERNA LESKY. Vienna, Osterreichische Gesellschaft für Arbeitsmedizin, 1956. Pp. 79, illus. 19.80 Austrian shillings; or 10 AS direct from the Society (Kinderspitalgasse 15, Wien IX).

This important contribution to the history of industrial medicine is the first of a new monograph series on 'Safety and Health at Work' published by the Austrian Society for Industrial Medicine. The topic is specifically the measures taken to protect the health of workers in the celebrated mercury mines of Idria (a town in the province of Carniola) during the past two hundred years, but the solution of the problems found there are of much wider application. Dr. Lesky is a medical historian and her scholarly account of the early attempts to reduce the hazards inseparable from the miners' work and of their subsequent development is of topical significance, a fact which is emphasized by its publication as the first volume of the series. The acts (dating from 1754) which set up an industrial health service in the mines of Idria are reprinted, and the illustrations of the technical processes help greatly to illuminate the text.

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