

monograph that existing knowledge on cancer risks in the developing world is sparse and of varying quality. For example, in China, there has been a recent history of occupational epidemiology research from which a systematic body of data is emerging. The situation is quite different in many other countries (e.g., Central America) where case reports and small-scale exposure or health investigations are the main sources of knowledge. The compilation of literature citations, many of which are not widely known in North America and Western Europe, should be of use to readers seeking original accounts of the adverse work conditions that are described tersely in the text.

Throughout the book, the perspective emerges that much of occupational cancer could have been and, in the future, should be prevented by balancing economic self-interests with concerns for public health. Fortunately, a polemical tone is avoided because the authors present enough valuable background material to reveal some of the complexities of economic growth and the competing forces that typically accompany industrialization. In fact, by offering some practical workplace

intervention and health- and exposure-assessment strategies, the concluding chapter of the book gives the reader hope that some of the errors of the past can be mitigated and poor judgments avoided in the future.

There are some issues that seem either conspicuously absent or inadequately explored. In several chapters, there are allusions to the impediments to epidemiologic training. Several in-depth examples describing the processes by which epidemiologic research has been attempted, with varying degrees of success, would have been instructive. For example, cooperative research projects by professionals in developed and developing countries could be highlighted as instances of appropriate public-health actions.

Hazards from occupational and environmental exposures often are distinguished in economically developed countries because workplace toxicant levels tend to be orders of magnitude higher. This differential may not exist in many developing countries where large-scale industrial discharges into community water and air sources historically have been widespread. As such, identification and control of industrial carcinogens will require

more comprehensive efforts than typically are involved in developed countries. More discussion on the scope and consequences of industrial contamination in the workplace and the community environment would have been another welcome addition.

This book certainly will be of interest to epidemiologists, other biomedical researchers, and to persons interested in occupational and international public-health policy. Occupational cancers and associated risk factors are reviewed in numerous texts on occupational medicine, toxicology, environmental health, and occupational hygiene. However, most information in those texts is based on the experience of populations in developed countries. By virtue of its focus on developing countries, this monograph offers new information, and thus should serve as the standard reference source. This book undoubtedly will stimulate others to produce more comprehensive texts on occupational and environmental diseases in developing countries.

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