The Proceedings of the Second International Congress on Hyperbaric Oxygenation make interesting reading for several reasons. The subjects covered are considerable in number: dangers of increased atmospheric pressure, respiratory physiology and disease, cardiac surgery, cerebrovascular physiology and disease, infections, myocardial infarction, shock and finally a group of miscellaneous subjects among which are found contributions on the effect of hyperbaric oxygenation in asphyxia neonatorum, on gas exchange in liquid ventilated dogs, on vascular insufficiency of the retina and optic nerve. The 46 contributions are well documented and refreshingly matter of fact, as are the discussions. Finally the presentation of text, graphs and figures is excellent.

The contents of the book are proof that the therapeutic and experimental possibilities of hyperbaric oxygenation have become considerably better defined since the first international congress on this subject was held in Amsterdam. It is a pleasure to note that some of the most interesting contributions come from the department of Prof. Boerema, who introduced hyperbaric oxygenation in medicine.

A. M. van Leeuwen (Amsterdam)


This book presents a longitudinal study, with tuberculin tests and X-ray examinations, of tuberculous infection in all the individuals born in Bergen in 1935. Its purpose is to establish the prevalence of tuberculous infection in childhood and adolescence and its immediate and far consequences. 1193 subjects remained under observation throughout the 27 years of the study. A primary infection could be demonstrated in 165 non-vaccinated subjects, of whom 109 were asymptomatic and 56 had clinical or radiological signs. 4 children under 2 years died of miliary tuberculosis or meningitis.

Of the 17 cases of post-primary tuberculosis, all except 3 occurred after the age of 17 years. One of the 4 patients who had had an overt primary infection died of generalized dissemination. 6 had been BCG-vaccinated (yet 4 of these had been particularly exposed). Apart from the 5 fatal cases no extrapulmonary localizations were observed.

BCG immunization was carried out—or repeated—in nearly all the negative individuals from 14 years on, so that by the end of the study there were only 0.8 % non-reactors left.

In the light of numerous graphs and tables the author studies the relationship between tuberculous infection and age, sex, social class, infection source, etc., whereby his book is of interest for the sociologist as well as for the physician.

J. de Haller (Davos)