

BOOKS AND REPORTS

Books of Special Interest to Public Health Workers

MAZÝCK P. RAVENEL, M.D.

OUR annual review of books on public health has been favorably received for several years so that it has seemed worth while to go over those published in 1937 and a few in the early months of 1938, and call them once more to the attention of public health workers, physicians, and nurses, and, in fact, to all who are interested in preventive medicine and public health. As in the past, our selections have been based chiefly on books reviewed in this *Journal*. Among others, however, which have been read through the year and from which selections have been made are the *British Medical Journal*, *The Lancet*, and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. We trust that the present review will meet with the approval of our readers and give some helpful suggestions.

NUTRITION

We have elsewhere pointed out that in England the two great public health movements which have been attracting attention for several years past are housing and nutrition. That housing is attracting attention in this country is shown by the fact that at our Annual Meeting we had a symposium on the Hygiene of Housing; yet few books have come in to us during the current year on either housing or nutrition. It is true that there have been a number of new editions and compilations on nutrition, but no outstanding works have come to our attention. Among these, in view of its originality

and its practical bearing, there should be mentioned *Dr. Nash's Cookery Book*, by Elwin H. T. Nash, Simpkin, Marshall, Ltd., an extensive study on providing nutritious foods and preparations at low cost. It is very highly spoken of in England and has had favorable reviews in this country. *Man, Bread and Destiny*, C. C. and S. M. Furnas, Reynal & Hitchcock, is a discussion of the development of civilized man interpreted through his food intake, a fascinating study of nutrition adapted to the layman. Among the notable new editions are *Chemistry of Food and Nutrition*, by Henry C. Sherman, 5th edition, Macmillan, which is an indispensable text, *Vitamins—In Theory and Practice*, by Leslie J. Harris, 2nd edition, Macmillan, presents with a minimum of academic uncertainty a summary of knowledge in this field. It is unexpectedly complete and has an up-to-date wealth of detail. *Dietetics Simplified*, by L. Jean Bogert and Mame T. Porter, Macmillan, is intended primarily for students in home economics. It contains information for the public also, and is authentic, complete, and understandable. *A Laboratory Handbook for Dietetics*, by Mary Swartz Rose, 4th edition, Macmillan, has for many years been a standard textbook for college laboratory classes in dietetics and an invaluable source of reference material for all those concerned with practical problems in dietetics. Much new information is given in this edi-

tion. *Food Technology*, by Samuel C. Prescott and Bernard E. Proctor, McGraw-Hill, is an impressive book designed to aid in training the scientific personnel now required in food industry. Of distinct value to sanitarians and all concerned in the production or control of foods. *The Foundations of Nutrition*, by Mary Swartz Rose, 3rd edition: This text appears in a new format, very attractive. It has been brought up to the minute, will maintain its place as a standard for teaching and reference.

NURSING

The past year has been notable in that the 25th anniversary of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing was celebrated. There have been papers of various kinds, but only one book which we have seen. *Nursing as a Profession*, by Esther Lucile Brown, Russell Sage Foundation, is a reliable and up-to-date source of information for all interested in nursing, giving an insight into the aims, activities, and problems of the nursing profession. *School Nursing: A Contribution to Health Education*, by Mary Ella Chayer, 2nd edition, Putnam, is revised and enlarged, with a chapter on Rural School Nursing, and is practical in every chapter.

HYGIENE AND INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

Under the general heading of hygiene, industrial hygiene is still demanding much attention, as new chemicals, many of them known to be as possibly injurious to workers are coming more and more into use. The revival of industry in 1937 brought some of these things to the fore. No great work has appeared during the year. Worthy of mention, however, are *Facts and Frauds in Woman's Hygiene*, by Rachel Lynn Palmer and Sarah K. Greenberg, Vanguard, which is especially valuable for lay women, *Modern Principles of Ven-*

tilation and Heating, by T. Bedford, H. K. Lewis & Co., which consists of three lectures under the Heath Clark Bequest at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. By an outstanding authority, this work will have a wide reception in this country. *Second Symposium on Silicosis*, by B. E. Bekuechle, Editor, Employers Mutuals, is indispensable to all those who are interested in silicosis. *Personal Hygiene*, by C. E. Turner, Mosby, is a practical text written in interesting style. *Handbook of Hygiene*, by Joseph W. Bigger, Wood, is a 5th edition. The market is flooded with books on hygiene. This is an especially good one, concise and adapted to general use. *A Synopsis of Hygiene*, by W. W. Jameson and G. S. Parkinson, J. A. Churchill, Ltd., is a standard work in its 5th edition.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education has been well represented during the year as it generally is. The outstanding books seem to be *Creative Re-education*, by Frederick Paterson, Putnam, which is an "inspiration to all who are attempting to solve the problems of human needs." *The Doctor and the Public*, James Peter Warbasse, Hoeber, is "A timely book, yet not one that will soon be out of date." *A Health Education Workbook*, by Kathleen Wilkinson Wootten, Barnes, is designed for teachers, parents, nurses, and social workers and is an excellent practical text of great value for teachers, school officials, and health workers. *Tuberculosis Education: A Guide for Professional and Lay Workers*, by Elma Rood, Rural School Press, is rich in suggestions for health officers, public health nurses, school administrators, teachers, and community workers. *Adventures in Living Series*, by Thomas D. Wood, Anette M. Phelan, Marion O. Lerrigo, Nina B. Lamkin, and Thurman B.

Rice, Nelson—*Now We Are Growing, Many Ways of Living, Keeping Fit, Blazing the Trail, How We Live*—is an interesting series giving the latest developments in preventive medicine, and at the end of each chapter ingenious suggestions are made for vitalizing health teaching. *Man in a Chemical World*, by A. Cressy Morrison, Scribner, is both cultural and practical. It commemorates the 300th anniversary of the birth of the chemical industry in the United States and is a remarkable and useful story. *The Measurement of Outcomes of Physical Education for College Women*, by Elizabeth Graybeal, University of Minnesota Press, is important as an attempt to evaluate the great efforts now being made in all educational institutions on physical education.

BACTERIOLOGY, PARASITOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY

Perhaps the most notable book under this grouping is *Clinical Parasitology*, by Charles Franklin Craig and Ernest Carroll Faust, Lea & Febiger. It is a new textbook by leading American authorities on tropical medicine and parasitology and is undoubtedly the standard textbook in its field. *Malaria in Europe*, by L. W. Hackett, Oxford University Press, is a valuable contribution to the book-shelf of malariologists, physicians, public health workers, and laymen interested in control of this disease. *Handbook of Microscopical Technique*, by C. E. McClung, 2nd edition, Hoeber, contains many improvements over the first edition and is of great value as a book of reference. *Manual of Public Health Laboratory Practice*, by J. R. Currie and Contributors, Wood, is an excellent book for graduates, but is written for those working under English conditions. *Atlas of Hematology*, by Edwin E. Osgood and Clarice M. Ashworth, W. Stacey, Inc., concerns public

health only in the differential diagnosis of some of the anemias, though is so outstanding as to call for mention here. There is no better work on the subject. *Disinfection and Sterilization*, by Ernest C. McCulloch, Lea & Febiger, is a fine piece of work which will be appreciated by those who find the literature on the subject overwhelming and who are looking for definite knowledge. *Phenomenon of Local Tissue Reactivity and Its Immunological, Pathological and Clinical Significance*, by Gregory Schwartzman, Hoeber, is especially useful to immunologists and clinicians in assembling in one volume the mass of scattered observations on the Schwartzman phenomenon. It constitutes a fine memorial to the high ideals of the author. *Pathology (Clio Medica)*, by E. B. Krumbhaar, Hoeber, is a remarkable, concise and accurate treatment of this important branch of medicine. *Practical Bacteriology, Haematology and Animal Parasitology*, by E. R. Stitt, 9th edition, Blakiston. This has always been the leading book in its line in the English language, if not in any language, and it is hard to speak too highly of it.

SYPHILIS

Because of the campaign which is being waged against syphilis, it is felt that a separate heading should be devoted to it. A notable book is *Shadow on the Land—"Syphilis,"* by Thomas Parran, Reynal & Hitchcock. It bears evidence of the interest in this scourge of mankind awakened in this country by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. The book brings out forcibly the important place in our public health program held by syphilis, and points the pathway to control. Two other books on syphilis have appeared. *Syphilis Sive Morbus Humanus: A Rationalization of Yaws So-Called*, by Charles S. Butler, Science Press Printing Co., is largely devoted

to a discussion of the origin of syphilis. *Who Gave the World Syphilis? The Haitian Myth*, by Richmond C. Holcomb, Froben Press, is a critical study of the controversy over the geographical origin of syphilis, well worth reading from every point of view. These books should be read together. There is also *Laboratory Diagnosis of Syphilis*, by Harry Eagle, Foreword by J. Earle Moore, Mosby, which deserves mention.

CANCER

There have been many articles on cancer and everyone knows of the intensive studies being carried out on this disease all over the world. A most useful book is *Some Fundamental Aspects of the Cancer Problem*, edited by Henry B. Ward, Science Press. It is a valuable study giving a good cross-section of cancer research at present.

MATERNAL CARE

The Principles of Antepartum, Intrapartum and Postpartum Care for the Practitioner of Obstetrics, by F. L. Adair, Editor, University of Chicago Press. Though written for the practitioner, this concise booklet will be useful to public health nurses, physicians generally as well as all others whose duties bring them into contact with prospective mothers.

CHILD CARE

Child care in its various aspects has been the subject of many articles, but not many books have come to our notice. *Guide Book for Mothers*, by Allan Roy Dafoe, Julian Messner, Inc., is written in delightful style by the famous doctor who attended at the birth of the Dionne quintuplets and guided their early days to health. *Child Care and Training*, by Marion L. Faegre and John E. Anderson, 4th edition, University of Minnesota Press. The demand for a fourth edition shows the value of this work. The authors

have preserved a judicious balance between the physical, mental, emotional and social factors.

VITAL STATISTICS

Only one book of importance on this subject has come to us, *Statistical Methods in Biology, Medicine, and Psychology*, by C. B. Davenport and Merle P. Ekas, 4th edition, is "recommended to all who require data on statistical methods of the type developed by the Pearsonian school."

HISTORY

Some unusually interesting books on history have appeared. A notable book is that by Sir Arthur Newsholme, *The Last Thirty Years in Public Health: Recollections and Reflections on My Official and Post-Official Life*, George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., which is packed with observations on the history, evolution, and administrative solution of public health problems. Another unusual book is *The Mentally Ill in America: A history of their care and treatment from Colonial Times*, by Albert Deutsch, Doubleday, Doran. This is particularly valuable in view of the increasing recognition of the importance of mental hygiene in our health program. A scholarly review long needed is here supplied. An interesting book of especial value to Americans is *History of County Health Organizations in the United States, 1908-1933*, by John A. Ferrell and Pauline A. Meade, *Public Health Bulletin* 222, Public Health Service, which is a valuable source book for public health administrators and public health students in the United States.

Two unusually interesting autobiographies have appeared. *A Woman Surgeon*, by Rosalie Slaughter Morton, Stokes, is an interesting account of a useful and adventurous life. *Life and Death: The Autobiography of a Surgeon*, by Andrea Majocchi, Knight

Publications, is an unusually fascinating book with reflections on medicine, human nature, religion, superstitions, etc., through all of which the author has maintained his faith in this life and the hereafter. A book which has been reviewed most favorably is *The Mind of Man: The Story of Man's Conquest of Mental Illness*, by Walter Bromberg, Harper, which is highly recommended for historical content, and physicians generally are advised to read it.

GENERAL

It is difficult to put some books in a hard and fast group. A notable and unusual book is *American Medicine: Expert Testimony Out of Court*, by leading doctors and surgeons, the American Foundation, 2 volumes. Few books have led to more discussion of fundamentals than these volumes. We have published a review and a long editorial on the matters brought out, and it remains only to call attention again to the work, which deserves study. *The Environment and Its Effect Upon Man*, by the Harvard School of Public Health, is an effort to correlate a few of the many aspects of this subject and consists of some 19 papers by experts in their respective fields and representing our latest ideas. *Trauma and Disease*, edited by Leopold Brahdry and Samuel Kahn, Lea and Febiger, is an extension of the usual idea of public health which has been needed for many years, and is deserving of a warm welcome. *The Traffic in Health*, by Charles Solomon, Navarre Publishing Company, Inc., is an unusually good discussion of the patent medicine question, covering habit formers, proprietary medicines, cosmetics, etc., concluding with sound advice and a good bibliography. In many ways the most notable work on this general subject. We have put under this general head-

ing two books which might have a heading of their own: *The Psychology of Abnormal People*, by John J. B. Morgan, 3rd edition, Longmans-Green, is a second edition brought up to date of a book that is a leader in its field. *Textbook of Psychiatry*, by Arthur P. Noyes, 2nd edition, Macmillan, is a thorough revision, giving in synoptic form the broad field of general psychology and paying special attention to the field of psychiatric nursing. Under this general heading we are putting also an unusual book, especially valuable, *Principles and Practice of Public Health Dentistry*, by J. A. Salzmann, with chapters by Dr. Struthers, and Dr. McCall, Stratford. This is a book which covers a new field, of particular value in view of the increasing interest in oral hygiene by the medical profession. Deserves a wide circulation among health officers, public health workers, and doctors.

The year has seen also a new edition of *A Practical Medical Dictionary*, Thomas Lathrop Stedman, 13th edition, which celebrates the 25th anniversary of the work, and is excellent from every point of view.

Public Medical Services: A Survey of Tax-supported Medical Care in the United States, by Michael M. Davis, University of Chicago Press, is a useful and compact statement. *First Aid Textbook*, American Red Cross, Blakiston, Revised edition. "Never has the need for first aid been greater than at present. . . ." *Everyday First Aid*, by Walter Frank Cobb, Appleton-Century, is a manual for those who would be prepared—prevention, though the importance of first aid treatment is also well handled. *The Pneumonokonioses (Silicosis) Literature and Laws of 1934*, Book III, by G. G. Davis, E. M. Salmonsens, and J. L. Earlywine, Chicago Medical Press, is important for specialists and libraries.