

accustom himself to two or more in the course of a year.

The references to the special schemes developed by this large voluntary society over the course of the years to deal with unusual problems point the way in which the work of local authorities may progress in the next few years. Grants to enable children to be boarded with near relatives or with their own parents instead of having to be taken into care—the Auxiliary Boarding-Out Scheme and the Family Assistance Plan—have grown out of a scheme worked out by Dr. Barnardo himself.

There is a useful chapter, "Casework and Child Care," which serves as an introduction to casework for social workers, but there is no reference to the desirability of continuing supervision by someone especially skilled in this field.

This book is of interest to those with a little knowledge of the work of children's departments and voluntary organizations, but it is of limited use to anyone else, and the absence of an index accentuates this limitation.

DENIS PIRRIE.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.

Synopsis of Pediatrics. By James G. Hughes, B.A., M.B. (Pp. 1,031; illustrated. 73s. 6d.) Saint Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company. London: Henry Kimpton. 1963.

Introduction to Preventive and Social Medicine. By Sonti Dakshinamurti, M.B., B.S., B.S.Sc.(Madras), D.P.H., D.T.M.&H. (Eng.), Ph.D.(London). **Volume One.** (Pp. 240; illustrated. 15 rupees.) **Volume Two.** (Pp. 182+tables. 20 rupees.) Kakinada, South India: Educational Enterprises. 1962.

Connective Tissue Disorders. By Sir John Richardson, M.V.O., M.A., M.D.(Cantab.), F.R.C.P. (Pp. 239+xii; illustrated. 35s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

Scientific Communications. Volume XII, January 1962–January 1963. (Pp. 111.) Amsterdam: Research Department, N.V. Koninklijke Pharmaceutische Fabrieken v/h, Brocades-Stheeman and Pharmacia. 1963.

Lehrbuch der Physiologie. Edited by Prof. Dr. med. et phil. Peter Balint. (Pp. 1,225; illustrated. \$22.) Budapest: Akademiai Kiado. 1963.

Congenital Abnormalities in Infancy. Edited by A. P. Norman, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 389+xv; illustrated. 63s.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1963.

The Structure and Function of the Membranes and Surfaces of Cells. Edited by D. J. Bell and J. K. Grant. (Pp. 172; illustrated. 35s.) Cambridge and London: Cambridge University Press. 1963.

Methods of Separation of Subcellular Structural Components. Edited by J. K. Grant. (Pp. 157; illustrated. 35s.) Cambridge and London: Cambridge University Press. 1963.

General Psychopathology. By Karl Jaspers. Translated from the German 7th edition by J. Hoenig, M.D., D.P.M., and Marian W. Hamilton, B.A.(Oxon.). (Pp. 922+xxxii. 75s.) Manchester: The University Press. 1963.

Textbook of Virology. By A. J. Rhodes, M.D., F.R.C.P.(Edin.), F.R.S.C., and C. E. van Rooyen, M.D., D.Sc.(Edin.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.P.(C.). Fourth edition. (Pp. 600+xvi; illustrated. £5 8s.) Baltimore, Maryland: The Williams and Wilkins Company. London: Ballière, Tindall and Cox Ltd. 1962.

Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology. Volume XXVII: Basic Mechanisms in Animal Virus Biology. (Pp. 535+xv; illustrated. \$8.) Cold Spring Harbor, New York: Biological Laboratory. 1962.

Intestinal Biopsy. Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 14. In Honour of Professor C. Jimenez Diaz. Edited by G. E. W. Woistensholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., and Margaret P. Cameron, M.A. (Pp. 120; illustrated. 15s.) London: J. and A. Churchill Ltd. 1962.

Without Prejudice

I sympathize with Sir Arthur Porritt's outburst last week about the N.H.S. "The Health Act of 1948," he is reported to have said, "is a sacred cow: you must not touch it. It is vote-catching, and you must not go near it." Of course he is right. Aneurin Bevan said that the Health Service was at the heart of politics. Of course he was right. It was the strong and cleverly directed political drive from the left that led to the nationalization of medical services, with the corollary that to a large extent doctors have become State servants. Many of those behind this drive used medicine as an instrument to achieve their political aims and to take this country further along the road to socialism.

Some people get very cross when I suggest this as an accurate reading of recent medical history. As if there were anything indecent about socialism! Socialists' conception of society is utopian and idealistic. Their desire to change and reform society is fired by a puritanical zeal which in an agnostic society has replaced religious fervour. The left wing in medicine has, and has had, among its members some extremely able men. For years they moved steadily in the direction they wanted to go. And they got there. All Aneurin Bevan had to do was to follow the signposts stuck up by others.

* * *

I am not, of course, suggesting that everyone who followed their lead were socialists, or, shall I say, hopeful travellers. Of the 70-odd members of the Medical Planning Commission set up in August, 1940, I reckon that just under 20% were looking over their left shoulder at the shape of things to come—and they largely determined what it should be. But everyone recognized there was a medical problem which sooner rather than later would have to be solved—the organization of medical services so that they should be available to all the inhabitants of Britain.

I think it is essential to get the history clear, to recall now that the plan outlined in the Medical Planning Commission's report included "the appointment of practitioners to a national service . . . the remuneration of general practitioners on a part-time salaried basis . . . the remuneration of consultants on a salaried basis . . . compensation for loss of capital. . . ." Six to eight years later these and other things were hotly debated and indeed resisted by the B.M.A. I should be surprised if the N.H.S. is not used by both parties in the coming election as a justification of their faith.

* * *

The Porritt Report has had a much worse press than the report of 1942. The recent debate on it in the House of Lords was diffuse. However, I got some refreshment from reading Lord Taylor's observations. Some eighteen months ago he startled the Lords by describing the current hospital situation as a "pretty ghastly awful picture"—a phrase that echoed for months in the columns of the *B.M.J.* I think he could be described, to quote the *New Statesman* on someone else, as "one of those incongruously 'non-political' liberal academics, sometimes found at the centre of an authoritarian system, whose intellectual integrity often cuts deeper into the dogma of fanatics than any conven-