

It is curious that the only criticism one can make of any severity is of the book's main *raison d'être*, the illustrations. Their artistic merit is not of the standard of their accuracy and educational value. The colouring, especially of the human skin, is crude and unnatural. I had to force myself to say even this about a book which otherwise one can only praise unstintingly.

RAYMOND GREENE.

## Age and Loneliness

**Old and Alone.** A Sociological Study of Old People. By Jeremy Tunstall. (Pp. 344 + xi. 45s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1966.

About 94% of people over 65 in Britain live at home; of these, only a minority live alone. Four ways of "being alone" are defined—living alone, social isolation, loneliness, and anomie. The anomic are a group, mainly males of working class, who experience a feeling of hopelessness or personal disorganization and shun society. It is often assumed that some of these terms are interchangeable, but not all who live alone are isolated; about one-third see members of their family or

friends, and loneliness is felt by many who live with other people or in institutions.

The subjects were selected from names of people over 65 on general practitioners' lists in two working-class urban areas, one white-collar urban area, and a rural area, regarded as representative of the country as a whole. The names were selected at random, and 538 received a screening interview. It had been observed that three groups were especially liable to be alone—the single, the recently widowed, and the housebound. People in these categories were selected from among the 538 for special interview and numbered 195. It was accepted that loneliness is a subjective matter, and the degree of loneliness was assessed from the subjects' answers, uninfluenced as far as possible by the observers' opinions.

The author is concerned lest a statistical analysis should depersonalize the old people's lives, and he found so wide a range of experience that norms and averages had limited value. He therefore records 10 interviews at length, together with extracts from others. He found all types of "aloneness" were very common in old women, among widowed and married, and in those over 70. The widowed and single were specially apt to feel their first experience of social isolation on retire-

ment, but the single as a group did not claim to be especially lonely. Ill-health often accompanied the other crises. The physically incapacitated housebound tend to express feelings of loneliness. The author gives some details of his conclusions about the factors aggravating loneliness—bereavement, immobility, ill-health, loss of income, retirement, and so on, and discusses the services that are or might become available to deal with these situations. Three appendices give full details of the methods, questionnaires, and scoring system used.

To Jeremy Tunstall loneliness, like disease, can be treated only when a correct diagnosis has been made, because there are many factors acting on many individuals, so that each is a special problem. He has deep concern for the suffering of the old people he interviewed, which makes him bitingly critical of the services intended to help the aged, but he never descends to sentimentality, and his opinions are carefully supported by factual observation throughout. This well-written book describes a survey of the aged in depth, which, together with its extensive bibliography, is an important contribution to the growing literature on the needs of the old. It should be read widely by the profession.

E. WOODFORD-WILLIAMS.

## Books Received

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

**Die Rezeptorfunktion der Erythrozyten.** By F. Gramlich. (Pp. 158 + v. sFr./DM. 38.) Basle and New York: S. Karger. 1966.

**Index Bergeyana.** An Annotated Listing of Names of the Taxa of the Bacteria. (Pp. 1,472 +xiv. £10.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

**The Diagnosis of Stupor and Coma.** By Fred Plum, M.D., and Jerome B. Posner, M.D. (Pp. 197 + x; illustrated. 40s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1966.

**The Psychology of Human Ageing.** By D. B. Bromley. (Pp. 366. 6s.) Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin. 1966.

**The Essentials of Paediatric Surgery.** 2nd edition. By H. H. Nixon, M.A., F.R.C.S., and Barry O'Donnell, M.Ch., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.I. (Pp. 339 + xii; illustrated. 50s.) London: Heinemann. 1966.

**Exceptional Children.** Residential Treatment of Emotionally Disturbed Boys at Shotton Hall. By F. G. Lennhoff. (Pp. 201. 21s.) London: George Allen & Unwin. 1966.

**The Midwife and the Witch.** By Thomas Rogers Forbes. (Pp. 196 + x; illustrated. 48s.) London: Yale University Press. 1966.

**Proceedings of the Fourth Congress of the Hungarian Association of Microbiologists.** Budapest, 1964. Edited by R. Backhausz, M.D. (Pp. 405 + xviii. No price given.) Budapest: Hungarian Academy of Sciences. 1966.

**The Biology of Human Adaptability.** Edited by Paul T. Baker and J. S. Weiner. (Pp. 541 + viii; illustrated. £5 5s.) Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1966.

**Augen und Allgemeinleiden.** By Dr. Karlernst Schrader. (Pp. 108 + x; illustrated. DM. 39.) Stuttgart: F. K. Schattauer. 1966.

**Hearing Loss.** By Joseph Sataloff, M.D., D.Sc.(Med.). (Pp. 404 + xv; illustrated. £6.) London: Pitman. 1966.

**Fundamentals of General Surgery.** 3rd edition. By John Armes Gius, M.D., D.Sc.(Med), F.A.C.S. (Pp. 818; illustrated. £5 5s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

**Music Therapy.** By Juliette Alvin. (Pp. 174; illustrated. 36s.) London: John Baker. 1966.

**Drug Therapy for Epilepsy.** By Samuel Livingston, M.D. (Pp. 234 + xiii; illustrated. \$9.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

**Cellular Concepts in Rheumatoid Arthritis.** Holbrook Memorial Symposium. Edited by C. A. L. Stephens, jun., M.D., F.A.C.P., and A. B. Stanfield, M.S. (Pp. 212 + xvii; illustrated. \$14.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

**Adolescent Boys of East London.** By Peter Willmott. (Pp. 224 + v. 30s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1966.

**Fonctions Endocriniennes de l'Ovaire.** Symposium, Paris, 1965. Directed by M. F. Jayle. (Pp. 205; illustrated. 45 F.) Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 1966.

**Féminité et Maternité.** By L. Chertok. (Pp. 279. 300 Belgian francs.) Paris and Bruges: Desclée de Brouwer. 1966.

**Säuglingsterblichkeit.** Edited by W. Hesselbarth, R. Schorr, and K. Winter. (Pp. 326; illustrated. £1 18s. 4d.) Leipzig: Georg Thieme. 1964.

**Structures and Functions of the Human Body.** By Gordon Scott MacGregor, M.A., D.M. (Oxon.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), Hon. M.D.(Malaya). (Pp. 632 + xxxi; illustrated 50s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

**Selected Readings in the History of Librarian-ship.** 2nd edition. By John L. Thorton, F.L.A. (Pp. 408; illustrated. £3 6s.) London: Library Association. 1966.

**Psychiatrische Fehldiagnosen.** By Professor H. J. Weitbrecht. (Pp. 251 + xii. DM. 28.50.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1966.

**Commissioning New Hospital Buildings.** A King's Fund Report. (Pp. 76. 15s.) London: King Edward's Hospital. 1966.

**Surgical Diseases of the Chest.** 2nd edition. Edited by Brian Blades, M.D. (Pp. 687 + xii; illustrated. £9 7s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1966.

**Progress in Clinical Cancer.** Vol. 2. Edited by Irving M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 375 + xvi; illustrated. £5 11s.) London: William Heinemann. 1966.

**Medical Care.** Social and Organizational Aspects. Edited by Leslie J. DeGroot, M.D. (Pp. 538 +xiv. \$16.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

**Persistent Persecutory States of the Elderly.** By Felix Post, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 100 + ix. 25s.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1966.

**The Church Is Healing.** By Dr. Michael Wilson. (Pp. 128. 9s. 6d.) London: S.C.M. Press. 1966.

**Primer on Prematurity and High-Risk Pregnancy.** By S. Gorham Babson, M.D., and Ralph C. Benson, M.D. (Pp. 194 + vii; illustrated. 78s. 6d.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1966.

**The Casualty Officer's Handbook.** 2nd edition. By Maurice Ellis, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.(Cantab.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H. (Pp. 250 + vii; illustrated. 48s.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

**Cardiopulmonary Function Tests in Clinical Medicine.** By Thomas P. K. Lim, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 171 + x; illustrated. \$9.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

**The Clinical Apprentice.** A Handbook of Bedside Methods. 3rd edition. By John M. Naish, M.D.(Cantab.), F.R.C.P., and A. E. A. Read, M.D.(Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Pp. 236; illustrated. 21s.) Bristol: John Wright. 1966.