

Significance of the Systolic Murmur

The Innocent Murmur. A Problem in Clinical Practice. Edited by Cesar A. Caceres, M.D., and Lowell W. Perry, M.D. (Pp. 300+xvi; illustrated. 97s. 6d.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

This monograph, with 23 eminent American cardiologists as contributors, deals with the history of innocent murmurs, mechanism of sound production, and principles of phonocardiography, as well as discussing the aetiology and significance of the systolic murmur.

Much of the text is taken up by a verbatim discussion between cardiologists, and is presented in the form of reports on panel discussions or clinicopathological meetings. This may appeal to some readers, but it takes a long time to sort the wheat from the chaff and at the end one is not always clear about the outcome of many pages of talk. It is unfortunate that the phonocardiograms, so vital to augment the text, are of such a poor quality and are not printed on art paper.

The cardiologist will find profit in reading through the views of his American colleagues on this most important subject. The misinterpretation of innocent systolic murmurs has led to much unwarranted cardiac invalidism in the past, and authors are to be congratulated on bringing together the views of all the leading authorities in this one volume. There is an excellent collection of references.

J. P. SHILLINGFORD.

Hierarchy and Culture

Caste and Race. Comparative Approaches. Edited by Anthony de Reuck and Julie Knight. (Pp. 348+xi. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

This is another symposium in the Ciba series for the promotion of understanding and knowledge on an international basis by bringing together persons prominent in their

respective professions for free exchange of views and ideas. A previous contribution *Man and Africa* is an outstanding example and remains on my bookshelf as a significant reference on Africa for a practising public health physician. The present volume follows the same format of a series of carefully prepared papers, each followed by open discussion.

It is not a book for the busy general physician to relax with; it is an intellectual contribution to a current and persisting anachronism to Western civilization's concept of an egalitarian society. Sociologists, however, like anthropologists and historians, follow the event, and by analysing past social experience hope to give the world a greater understanding of the present. The present volume attempts to do this by making a comparative study of social segregation as it occurs around the world, whether it be due to traditionally derived cultural customs or ethnic groupings. Both may be ascribed to an accident of birth; which thus determines man's status in society. Its effect upon modern outlook will depend upon how far its contents can be translated into easily assimilable terms. Those most in need of its understanding analysis are least likely to read it in its present form.

The symposium is in difficulties from its very inception in its attempts to define and distinguish caste, class, and slavery; but this is an excellent opening chapter. Perhaps the most concise and embracing definition of caste occurs some three chapters later: "a caste system occurs where a society is made up of birth ascribed groups which are hierarchically ordered and culturally distinct. The hierarchy entails differential evaluation, rewards, and associations" (page 48). Or, more simple (page 58), "Caste is people, and especially people interacting in characteristic ways and thinking in characteristic ways." Later on a moment of truth? (page 81): "They do not want equality—they want superiority; lower castes want to move up the ladder rather than to eliminate the ladder." Degrees of slavery are observed from chattel slaves with involuntary servility

to bond slaves with voluntary servility. The rights and privileges of slavery are noted (an article in *Life* magazine of 6 October 1967 entitled "Dead Hand of the Ottomans" graphically portrays this). The term "unfreedom" is coined.

Perhaps class is the most difficult to define and the most clearly understood. The haves and the have-nots; the professional status syndrome where profession supplants economics; and the "degenerate culture group view." This latter is described as an essentially practical class concept defined in terms of speech, standards of living, and interests displayed. That is, people tend to group themselves according to the similarity of their ways of living. The common fundamental facets of race and caste discrimination are later defined as "Besides endogamy and status stratification, the concept of pollution in sexual relations, commensality and residence, and belief in the inheritance of biopsychological qualities along racial or ethnic lines, are common properties of the two sets of relationships" (p. 98).

A review of this length cannot do justice to such a symposium. From discussions on definitions, philosophical and comparative sociology, chapters are devoted to discussions of the problems of discrimination on a geographic basis. Much of the tone of the book is set by the realization that the very words race, caste, slavery themselves carry implicit overtones of prejudice. Curiously enough, the word tribalism is neither mentioned nor defined. Africa receives scant attention, though there is brief mention on pages 109 and 110 of East Africa, and again reference is made to the difficulties of assimilation experienced by Francophone negroes in France—the psycho-dynamics of acculturation in relation to Francophone Africa. Perhaps there are lessons for the physician in the phrase "Each social class has a kind of sub-culture of its own within the wider whole." And, maybe, we as physicians would do well to consider our own subculture classes in terms of status hierarchy.

N. R. E. FENDALL.

Books Received

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

Ärztliche Aufklärungspflicht und Schweigepflicht. Proceedings of a Symposium. Edited by Helmut Kraatz and Hans Szwedczyk. (Pp. 178. 17s. 4d.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1967.

Gynäkologie und Geburtshilfe. Vol. 2. Schwangerschaft und Geburt. Edited by O. Käser *et al.* (Pp. 1193+xxi; illustrated. DM. 298.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

Laboratory Evaluation of Hemostasis. Medical Technology—1. By Marjorie S. Sirridge, M.D. (Pp. 163+xi; illustrated. 56s.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1967.

System of Ophthalmology. Vol. 10. Diseases of the Retina. Edited by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, G.C.V.O., F.R.S., and John H. Dobree. (Pp. 878+xv; illustrated. £10.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1967.

Harley Street. By Reginald Pound. (Pp. 198+x; illustrated. 36s.) London: Michael Joseph. 1967.

Electrotherapeutic Sleep and Electro-Anaesthesia. Proceedings of First International Symposium, Graz, Austria, 1966. Edited by F. M. Wageneder and St. Schuy. (Pp. 357; illustrated. £6 17s. 6d.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica Foundation. 1967.

Medicine for Mountaineering. Edited by James A. Wilkerson, M.D. (Pp. 309+xx; illustrated. \$7.50.) Washington: The Mountaineers. 1967.

The Management and Nursing of Burns. By J. Ellsworth Laing, M.B., F.R.C.S., and Joyce Harvey, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Pp. 116; illustrated. 17s. 6d. Paper 10s. 6d.) London: English Universities Press. 1967.

A Practical Guide to the Care of the Injured. By P. S. London, M.B.E., M.B., B.S.(Lond.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.). (Pp. 777+xii; illustrated. £7 10s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Principles of Pathology for Dental Students. By J. B. Walter, T.D., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.C. Path., Margaret C. Hamilton, F.D.S.R.C.S. (Eng.), M. S. Israel, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.C.P., M.C.Path. (Pp. 437+x; illustrated. 60s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1967.

A Short Textbook of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. By J. N. Aston, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 307; illustrated. 40s. Paper 27s. 6d.) London: English Universities Press. 1967.

Lymphatics and Lymph Circulation. Physiology and Pathology. 2nd edition. By Istvan Rusznayk, Mihály Földi, and György Szabo. (Pp. 971; illustrated. £8 8s.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1967.

Pemphigus: Occupational Dermatoses due to Chemical Sensitization. Edited by E. Liebner and E. Florian. (Pp. 711; illustrated. £6 10s.) Budapest: Hungarian Academy of Sciences. 1965.

Gastric Secretion. Mechanisms and Control. Proceedings of Symposium held at Edmonton, Canada, 1965. Edited by T. K. Shnitka, J. A. L. Gilbert, and R. C. Harrison. (Pp. 501+xvii; illustrated. £7.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1967.

Innovation and the Balance of Payments. The Experience in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Symposium. Edited by George Teeling-Smith. (Pp. 99+xvii. 21s.) London: Office of Health Economics. 1967.