

International Population Trends

Proceedings of the World Population Conference, 1965. Vol. 2. Fertility, Family Planning, Mortality. (Pp. 510 + xiii. \$7.50.) New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 1967.

Representatives from 88 countries attended the World Population Conference held in Belgrade in 1965, and over 500 scientific and technical papers were given. The proceedings were published in four volumes. Volume 2, published this year, comprises 103 papers and 75 short summaries of other papers which had been presented. The proceedings reported in this volume have been arranged under eight headings: (i) Future population trends and prospects; (ii) Fertility; (iii) Factors and patterns of fertility in areas where fertility is relatively high; (iv) Factors and patterns of fertility in areas where fertility is relatively low; (v) Studies relevant to family planning; (vi) Mortality; (vii) Mortality, morbidity, and causes of death; and (viii) Population genetics.

The topics under discussion allowed for a great deal of speculation and the views presented were those of the authors. Some of the views, perhaps because of the limited space allowed for the article, appear to be unsubstantiated. Some of the opinions expressed on future population trends were undoubtedly biased either because of ideological beliefs or by national outlook. The consensus of opinion seems to be that birth control must play an important part in any population policy. One Russian worker thinks that a possible population of 5,000 million by the year 2000 could be well fed if the people were equipped by the methods of modern science and technology. Another worker suggests that the world area under cultivation can be increased by 2½ to 3 times its present size. If the capitalistic theories of production did not stand in the way there would be no need of birth control, and using the methods of western Europe it would be possible to feed over 30,000 million people. In the speculations on the amount by which food production can be increased the need for living space seems to have been minimized. In Western countries the area available for food production is diminished

each year by the pressure of the population for increased living space. Ironically sites on which it is easiest to build new towns, reservoirs, motor ways, aerodromes, etc., are the best farm lands.

The papers on fertility are interesting but not very informative, because of their shortness. Some papers are accounts of pilot surveys based on rather small numbers in a very limited area of a country. Whether the results of these surveys can be extrapolated for the whole country is a matter of opinion, but large-scale inquiries will be necessary to establish trends. Economics, religion, and tradition are the major factors affecting fertility, but the environment of the people is an important factor that affects the differences between countries, especially developing countries.

Mortality and morbidity are influenced to a very large extent by the standard of living of the population and by the standard of medical care that it can afford. The section on mortality and morbidity is mainly concerned with the position within individual countries, and although international comparisons are attempted these are affected by the differences in the methods of registration and the classification of the causes between countries. In a large area of the world the care of the sick is undertaken by non-medically qualified persons—e.g., herbal doctors, witch doctors, etc. This section of the volume gives an interesting account of the large increase in medical care that has occurred in the U.S.S.R. The number of physicians, including Army medical officers, rose from 28,000 in 1913 to 501,000 in 1963.

The last section of the book deals with some of the aspects of population genetics. The difficulties inherent in this study are outlined in the various papers.

The multiplicity of books in recent years make it necessary to ask whether a new book fills any particular need. It can be assumed that the object of the World Population Conference, to provide an opportunity for workers in the same field to make each other's acquaintance and discuss mutual interests, was achieved. This volume suffers from the same defect as most accounts of symposia. It is a record of the proceedings, but whether the papers make any new contribution to knowledge is, perhaps, open to doubt, since in general the papers are short summaries of

work that has been published elsewhere. If the United Nations Organization thought it desirable to publish an account of the present state of knowledge on population subjects it should not have been beyond its powers to produce a coherent statement.

W. J. MARTIN.

Use of E.E.G.

The E.E.G. in Clinical Practice. By John Laidlaw, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., and J. B. Stanton, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.P.Ed., F.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 128; illustrated. 40s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

This is a well produced and clearly written introductory account of the clinical uses of the simplest types of standard electroencephalographic techniques. After a good description of techniques and artefacts, the bulk of the book is occupied by what the authors call "clinical situations," that is, common clinical conditions in which the E.E.G. might be expected to help. The illustrations are excellent and the comments pertinent, particularly the authors' insistence on the value of the E.E.G. being enhanced if clear and appropriate questions are asked rather than diffuse requests for " ? epilepsy."

There is a short chapter at the end entitled "The Future of the E.E.G. in Clinical Practice," which refers particularly to the use of sleep records in temporal lobe epilepsy, and serial recordings in hepatic encephalopathy. One would have thought that both these situations were very much of today rather than the future. The whole book, in fact, is disappointingly conservative. There is no reference whatever to any underlying neurophysiology, so that the techniques are presented like a sort of static photograph of that little bit of cerebral activity which current electronic amplification apparatus can produce for us.

As a crammer book for those neurologists and psychiatrists who want to have a passing acquaintance with the E.E.G., the volume may have some value, but unfortunately it is only too likely to confirm such readers and others in a jaundiced view of clinical neurophysiology that is increasingly out of date.

D. A. POND.

Books Received

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

Les Soins à Domicile. Vers une Nouvelle Institution Médico-Sociale. By Jacques Massion. (Pp. 155. No price given.) Brussels: École de Santé Publique. 1967.

The Patient's Progress. Edited by Felix Marti-Ibanez, M.D. (Pp. 148. \$5.95.) New York: MD Publications. 1967.

The Guilty Mind. Psychiatry and the Law of Homicide. By John Biggs, jun. (Pp. 236. 18s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1967.

Anatomy and Surgery of Hernia. 2nd edition. By Leo M. Zimmerman, M.D., and Barry J. Anson, Ph.D.(Med.Sc.). (Pp. 368 + ix; illustrated. £6 18s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.

Carcinogenesis. A Broad Critique Collection of Papers presented at 20th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, 1966. Published for the University of Texas, M. D. Anderson Hospital, and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas. (Pp. 774; illustrated. \$16.00.) Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins. 1967.

Cerebral Palsy. A Clinical and Neuropathological Study. Clinics in Developmental Medicine No. 25. By Erna Christensen and Johannes C. Melchior. (Pp. 134; illustrated. 28s.) London: Spastics Society Medical Education and Information Unit in Association with William Heinemann. 1967.

The Id and the Regulatory Principles of Mental Functioning. By Max Schur, M.D. (Pp. 220. 42s.) London: Hogarth Press. Institute of Psycho-Analysis. 1967.

Renal Disease. 2nd edition. Edited by D. A. K. Black. (Pp. 798 + xii; illustrated. £6 6s.) Oxford: Blackwell. 1967.

The Technique and Practice of Psycho-Analysis. Vol. 1. By Ralph P. Greenson. (Pp. 452 + xv. 84s.) London: Hogarth Press. Institute of Psycho-Analysis. 1967.

The Limits of Man. An Enquiry into the Scientific Basis of Human Population. By Hugh Nicol. (Pp. 283. 35s.) London: Constable. 1967.

Applied Audiology for Children. 2nd edition. By D. M. C. Dale, Dip.Ed.(N.Z.), Ph.D.(Manchester). (Pp. 159 + xiv; illustrated. \$7.75.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

The Growth of Medicine. Compiled and edited by Frederick Stenn, M.D. (Pp. 199 + xvii. \$9.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

Advances in Enzyme Regulation. Vol. 5. Proceedings of Symposium. Edited by George Weber. (Pp. 469 + xiv; illustrated. £6 10s.) Oxford: Pergamon. 1967.