REVIEWS

Recent Advances in Social Medicine. By A. C. STEVENSON. 1950. J. and A. Churchill, London. Pp. 241. (18s.)

This book consists of a series of essays on certain selected topics. It by no means covers the whole field of Social Medicine and it does not in its range make reference to quite a number and variety of recent papers dealing with matters that could undoubtedly be included within this field. The author has pleased himself in his selection and he has chosen to deal with the general theme of the health of young children. He not only reviews the work that has been done, but he examines it critically and presents his own opinion based upon his judgement. For example, in dealing with the communal day nursery he shares the view that for those under the age of two such an institution is not wholly satisfactory. For those aged two to five years the author is of opinion that the communal nursery has become a necessity owing to the existence of certain social and economic disorders which are present in our society and which are inimical to family life.

The author deals very sympathetically and most intelligently with the problems created by illegitimacy. The chapter on the problem family is exceedingly well written, for it not only displays the scientific attributes of the author but also his artistic quality. His description is exact, but it is also vivid.

Other topics dealt with are the Pulheems system, the adolescent in industry, psychosomatic illness and social medicine, school medical inspection, and infant mortality (two chapters). There is an interesting contribution to the book in the form of a chapter by Dr. Cheeseman on applications of statistical methods.

This book is strongly recommended to post-graduate medical students, particularly to those who are proceeding to the Diploma of Public Health and to the Diploma of Child Health.

F. A. E. Crew

Studies in Population. Edited by GEORGE F. MAIR. 1949. Princeton University Press, U.S.A. 1950. Geoffrey Cumberlege, London. (20s.)

Demography, like charity, covers a multitude of sins, and the factors which influence the development of populations are so manifold that it is hardly possible to discover a field of human activity in which the demographer need not be interested. Social factors such as housing conditions, educational standards, and nutritional levels, economic relationships between employer and employed, or between landlord and tenant, agricultural and industrial productivity, medical advances in eradicating disease and prolonging life—these are but a few of the fields into which the demographer must delve in order to estimate what the future