This is an important reference book for all those concerned with the social welfare of the child and adolescent.

CATHERINE SWANSTON

Researches on the Measurement of Human Performance. By N. H. MACKWORTH. 1950. Med. Res. Council. Spec. Rep. Ser. No. 268. H.M.S.O. Pp. 156, 58 figs. 4s.

During the recent war, Dr. Mackworth and his colleagues were set to tackle two very practical problems:

- (1) What happens when men are required over long periods of time to watch or listen for hardly distinguishable signals occurring irregularly at unpredictable intervals? Vigilance of this sort was demanded of the radar-observer and the Asdic operator in the endless search for submarines.
- (2) What happens when sensory, intellectual, or muscular work has to be kept up for a long time under increasingly difficult environmental conditions, as, for example, when men are submitted to high concentrations of irritant or harassing agents, or have to withstand extremes of heat or humidity?

This report gives practical answers to some of these questions raised by the conditions of modern war, but its importance far exceeds the limits of the specific problems studied. For here is the outline of psychological and physiological methods readily adaptable to the study of problems of human efficiency under a great variety of circumstance, both in war and in peace. Dr. Mackworth treads the boundary line between psychology and physiology with confidence. Students of both disciplines will long find it useful to refer back to this pioneer work.

R. PASSMORE