REVIEW


Dr. Massey has collected a first-class team and given them the task of expounding modern ideas and practice in public health. The twenty-three essays cover a wide field, and there can be no doubt that the book will become a standard work of reference for all interested in the development of public health, and especially for those about to take up preventive medicine. In no other book will the young medical graduate find such clear statements of both its aims and ideals.

The editor has experienced difficulty in arranging the chapters in any logical sequence, and so has fallen back on the expediency of sending in his contributors in alphabetical order. Under this arrangement the book starts badly, for Dr. K. E. Barlow, who opens with a chapter on "The Idea of a Family Health Club," devotes so much space to expounding elementary biology in a series of cliches that he has little room left to relate either what the Peckham Health Centre has achieved or the Family Health Club at Brandon Woods hopes to do.

In the second chapter, Dr. Fraser Brockington gives an account of "Nutrition and the Public Health." Into thirty-one pages he has packed a mass of accurate information about recent advances, covering biochemical studies, clinical observations, and administrative measures. No one can read this compact review without learning something both novel and interesting.

The third chapter, by Professor F. A. E. Crew, on "Social Medicine as an Academic Discipline," is one of the most important contributions in the volume. The whole history of the academic attitude to preventive medicine is depicted, starting from the writings of Johann Peter Frank (1745-1821) in Germany and a voluntary course given in Edinburgh in 1795 by Duncan primus, then Professor of the Institutes of Medicine. The evolution of ideas is illustrated by extracts from standard works of the past and by details of old courses of study for undergraduate and post-graduate instruction. The view is put forward that as an academic study social medicine has advanced but little since the days of the great Prussian liberal politician, Virchow. Preventive medicine in the universities was subsequently almost swallowed by the science of bacteriology. To-day in the universities it is in danger of becoming merely an adjunct to a renaissance of clinical medicine, now in revolt against excessive dependence on laboratory studies. As an independent university discipline, social medicine can only justify itself by studying and expounding how changing patterns of morbidity and mortality affect the structure of human society, and the use of medicine as an instrument of social policy. This interesting thesis appears to the reviewer to have a logical corollary. Of those future leaders of society who will determine the outlines of future social policy, only a small minority will have been medical graduates of the universities. Teachers of social medicine would thus be best advised to strive to teach their ideas to students of the humanities in the arts faculties.

In chapter four Dr. Robert Cruickshank gives a workmanlike description of "Recent Laboratory Contributions to Epidemiology." He reviews recent knowledge of the manner of spread of respiratory and intestinal infections, and gives a bibliography of one hundred references.

Dr. W. Edwards gives a delightful account of "General Practice and its Contribution to Preventive Medicine." This chapter should be reprinted and a copy sent to every general practitioner. Dr. Edwards writes pithily and is not afraid of an elegant digression. In an aside on the medical curriculum he hints that the general practitioners of the future might be better at their jobs if, instead of sitting at the feet of a professor of biochemistry, they took a course in the appreciation of fine art. This seems common sense.

In chapter six Dr. William Gunn gives a brief, clear account of "The Future Scope of Infectious Diseases' Hospitals and Associated Services" from the viewpoint of a medical administrator. Professor Johnstone Jervis follows with a forty page, well-documented and well-illustrated review of the smoke problem. This chapter will be a standard reference for many years.

Dr. Kershaw tells the story of "Public Health Nursing," beginning with an account of the Ladies' Reform Association in 1862, and looking forward to the workings of new legislation. The training of the health visitor of the future and the question of specialization is discussed at length.

"Chronic Rheumatism as a Public Health Problem," is discussed by Dr. G. D. Kersley, who gives an excellent account of the present position and a concise summary of orthodox views in Great Britain.

In chapter ten Professor Lane describes a scheme for the teaching of the principles of "Occupational Health in the Universities," both to undergraduate and post-graduate students. This chapter should be studied by every medical faculty and serve as a model to many. Professor Lane ends with a concise statement of the proper aims and objects of a student health service.

Chapter eleven, "The Contribution of Dentistry to the Public Health" by Dr. Lilian Lindsay, is an orderly, clear review of past accomplishments and future prospects.

Professor J. M. Mackintosh writes a brilliant chapter on "Housing and the Home—The New Outlook." He describes how houses can and must be built not only to satisfy basic physiological needs for shelter and to supply elementary sanitary appliances, but also to provide a proper stage upon which the social and artistic life of a family can unfold. This chapter is memorable for an elegant translation of an ode of Horace, a thing of beauty in itself and pat to the argument.

In chapter thirteen Dr. A. A. E. Newth describes the "School Health Service," and in chapter fourteen Dr. Doris M. Odum writes on "The Mental Health Aspect of Public Health." Both these chapters seem model accounts of present services and their aims and achievements.

In a chapter on "Health Centres in their Relation to Social Medicine and Public Health" Dr. R. H. Parry discusses the role of health centres in the new public services. He describes existing centres and gives details of administration and structural lay-out.

143
Sir Leonard Parsons in a chapter on "Child Health and the Universities" gives a fine account of how a university must train its graduates both in preventive paediatrics and in the care of sick children. Those whose task it is to build paediatric courses in new universities and those who must renovate old methods of teaching will both find knowledge and inspiration here.

The seventeenth chapter, by Dr. Hugh Paul, gives a fascinating description of the scope of modern day nurseries and the responsibilities of their medical staff.

In chapter eighteen Dr. Donald Stewart gives a brilliant statement of the role the doctor can play in promoting occupational health. All medical men who are considering entering the industrial field should not fail to read this. In it they will find an account not only of the duties and responsibilities of an industrial medical officer, but also of the wide variety of interesting problems which they are likely to meet.

Chapter nineteen on "Vital Statistics—Modern Developments" by Dr. Percy Stocks, and chapter twenty on "Health Education" by Dr. Robert Sutherland, are disappointing. Or was one surfeited by good things at this stage? Dr. Stocks can never be either dull or uninformative, but this chapter seems unnecessary, distasteful and it is hard to see what it is all about. Most readers of this book will be in agreement with Dr. Sutherland about the need for health education, and would probably have preferred more detailed discussion of the scope and technique, rather than generalisations about aims and objects.

In chapter twenty-one Dr. Norman Tattersall deals with "Tuberculosis—The Present Position," statistics and epidemiology, B.C.G. vaccination, chemotherapy, radiology, tuberculosis services, rehabilitation, and the tuberculosis colony, these are all taken in order. The story is brilliantly told, and this is perhaps the most exciting chapter in the book.

Dr. H. C. M. Williams on the "Health Control at the Ports" and Dr. G. S. Wilson on the "New Organization of Public Health Laboratory Services" bring up the rear. Both give clear and workman-like accounts of these very important organizations.

If this review is so overloaded with superlatives that it makes bad reading, this cannot be helped. The superlatives must stand. It is hoped that they will convey that within the covers of this book is to be found an account of the ideas and institutions of modern preventive medicine in Great Britain. Many of the chapters are brilliant examples of hard thinking and clear writing: all are authoritative and informative. The reader will find here the basis on which public health teaching and services will develop not only in Great Britain, but probably throughout the world.

The production of the book is of the standard that we have been lead to expect from the house of Butterworth.

R. PASSMORE


This Bulletin traces the history of women's work in the United States of America during the past seventy years. The author describes in great detail the labour trends in about 450 different occupations. Between 1870 and 1940 the number of women at work increased from under two million to over 13 million and their ratio to all workers changed from 1 in 10 to 1 in 5. During the last war, from 1940 to 1945, the number rose to 20.6 million, but quickly dropped again after the end of hostilities to just over 16 million.

In 1940, out of 51 million women over the age of 14 in the United States, 11¾ million, or 25 per cent., were in work, half a million were in public emergency work, and one million were seeking employment. At the same time, 80 per cent. of all adult men, or 40 million, were working. Miss Hooks rightly points out that the unpaid work of the housewife in her own home should be included in any survey of women's occupations, and states that, if those engaged in housework are included, over four-fifths of all women contributed "to the well being of the nation through either paid or unpaid work."

The sex ratio shows that only in domestic service do women account for more than half the workers, and in this occupation they reach 93 per cent. of the total. Only in the professions (47.4 per cent.), clerical, sales and kindred workers (42.0 per cent.), and service workers other than domestic (44.8 per cent.) do they account for more than a third, whereas in all others their proportion varies from 2 per cent. of all craftsmen and industrial supervisors to 25 per cent. of all industrial workers. In America, as in this country, the textile and allied trades absorb a large number of working women, and in 1940 54.5 per cent. of all employed women were to be found in textile manufacture, and the making, wearing apparel and fabricated textile goods.

The first year in which occupational returns were made for women was 1870. In 1930 the group "home workers" (housewives) was included for the first time. The actual number of occupations reached a peak in 1920, when 572 separate jobs were listed. In the subsequent amalgamation many obsolete occupations were abandoned, so that today we find no mention in the labour returns of such persons as "mantua makers", "daggeruettontypist", or "hoop skirt maker". Others have lost their identity as, for example, "curriers", "tanners" and "morocco dressers", who are now all lumped together as "operative in leather goods."

The group of "clerical, sales and kindred workers" who numbered only 13,000 in 1870, by 1940 had reached the staggering total of 34 million, including over a million stenographers, typists, and secretaries. Women still account for only 54 per cent. of all "office workers", which indicates that they have not replaced men in offices so much as grasped new opportunities. The high social status enjoyed by the "white-collar" occupations has made them especially attractive to women. A meteoric rise has also been observed among the group of "barbers, beauticians and manicurists" who increased by 240 per cent. between 1920 and 1930. This, with the expansion of the amusement industries, is a reflection of the American post-war boom which continued throughout the twenties.

The census definition of a "professional" worker has been adopted as one who "performs advisory, administrative or research work, which is based upon the established principles of a profession or science, and which requires professional, scientific or technical training equivalent to that represented by graduation from a college or university of recognized standing."

Semi-professional workers are those in a restricted field of science or art, qualified by training or experience or both. In 1940 there were 14 million of these groups, of whom five per cent. of these workers were involved in teaching and nursing absorbed 75 per cent. Law, medicine, and theology accounted for less than 1 per cent. of this group, whereas they included nearly a quarter of all professional men. "Teaching has always been the outstanding