

BOOK REVIEWS

William Posner, *Editor*

CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED NEGRO CHILDREN IN THREE CITIES: NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, CLEVELAND, by Abigail F. Brownell. Child Welfare League of America, New York, 1945. 289 pp. \$2.50.

Social workers have a natural tendency to dwell on the technical skills that are the professional's equipment. In this there is, all too often, a flight from community responsibility. Explicitly or implicitly every social worker must recognize his agency, its function, its structure, as a reflection of what his community stands for and its capacity to change. The individual staff member finds it easier, and perhaps more comfortable, to accept his responsibility for the development of technique and the performance of a skilled job rather than owning to responsibility to the community which has created the agency. Professional responsibility, however, encompasses both specific technical and communal elements. Each is important and the combination is all important.

In its report on "Child Care Facilities for Dependent and Neglected Negro Children in Three Cities," the Child Welfare League has produced a work which recognizes both specific social work responsibility and communal responsibility.

Steadily in the last decades the Negro urban population has increased. Community facilities, among which child care resources are no exception, have been overtaxed. The tension of the war years made it particularly appropriate that a study be made through which communities could learn of their planning for the Negro child and how to strengthen their plans. In a careful, mature study Miss Brownell has evaluated for the Child Welfare League the substance of three communities' placement resources for the Negro dependent and neglected child and found the communities wanting.

The study defines its purpose in this way:

"To study and evaluate in certain cities: (1) the community pattern of organization for work with and in behalf of dependent and neglected children; (2) recent changes in facilities for all dependent and neglected children which affect the care of the Negro child

in this group; (3) the efforts of community planning groups to bring about more adequate care specifically for Negro children. To publish a report of the study which will be useful to communities in planning their work for Negro children."

To obtain the material for this study the research staff conducted conferences in New York during May 1944, in Philadelphia during June 1944, and in Cleveland during October and November 1944.

There are qualities of a handbook in this report as each city studied is reported on in a separate section. Each city is discussed in terms of "Community Organization for Child Care," "Responsibilities of Public Agencies," "Responsibilities of Voluntary Agencies," "Efforts to Change Child Care Facilities," and "Race Relations in Child Care Agencies." The relationship between the Court and the public agencies on one hand, and the private agencies, with its non-sectarian and sectarian organization, on the other hand, is examined.

There are basic differences in community structure for child care in each of the three cities. New York has a public structure whereby the Children's Court has jurisdiction in cases of neglect but not in cases of dependency; the Department of Welfare is responsible for cases of dependency and also for the dependency aspects of neglect cases. The Department of Welfare in New York commits children to the voluntary agencies and pays toward the children's maintenance. New York has no public placement agency.

In Philadelphia and Cleveland the Juvenile Court has jurisdiction in both dependency and neglect cases and commits children to public and voluntary agencies. In Philadelphia and Cleveland all children who are to be supported by public funds are committed by the Juvenile Court.

In each of the three cities voluntary child care organization operates under denominational aegis. The study points out that "in general the Jewish and Catholic communities have more orderly organization for child care than do the Protestant and non-sectarian agencies."

During the past five years all child care programs have operated under great stress. The dearth of foster homes and the lack of institutional staff have been universal. The Negro child, for whom resources were never adequate, suffered more than his brothers in dependency.

In New York City the pressure on all placement agencies rose to the breaking point in 1942. The picture of partial utilization of institutional resources because of segregation and the urgent need to care for Negro children already declared eligible for placement prompted passage of the Race Discrimination Amendment which is part of the contract to which each agency agrees when accepting payments from the city for the care of children. The Amendment provides in part:

No money shall be paid out of any appropriation made to any charitable institution for the care of dependent neglected, or delinquent children duly committed . . . if after due notice . . . such charitable institution shall refuse to accept a reasonable proportion of inmates from any racial group because of race or color, provided that no institution of a particular religious faith shall be required to accept persons . . . other than those who belong to its own religious faith.

The results of this amendment indicate that to be attacked successfully, segregation must be attacked from within the agency rather than without. In New York all Catholic and Jewish agencies expressed their willingness to comply with the Amendment. In "the non-sectarian and Protestant agencies . . . (custom) had been that of not accepting Negro children in institutions caring for white children, but a number of (placement) agencies cared for both Negro and white children in foster homes." As a consequence of the Race Discrimination Amendment the Protestant and non-sectarian agencies not caring for Negro children in foster homes agreed to accept these children and the placement agency caring for Negro children only, agreed to accept white children. However, of the nineteen Protestant and non-sectarian institutions caring only for white children, seven agreed to comply, three others agreed to comply but took no action indicating compliance, and nine institutions caring for 629 public charges have refused to comply and are consequently no longer available for public charges.

Fifteen months after the Race Discrimination Amendment went into effect in 1946, Commissioner Edward Rhatigan of the New York City

Department of Welfare called for full cooperation on the part of the voluntary agencies and cited the "failure of some institutions to comply with city provisions against discrimination" as a reason for the bottleneck involving 500 children who were awaiting placement at that time.

In Philadelphia, the most important recent change in the situation of the dependent and neglected Negro child is the "increasing obligation which the white dominated community has assumed for their care." Working within the inter-agency structure of its community the Bureau for Colored Children asked for and received the help of the Council of Social Agencies and the Community Fund to reorganize and re-finance. In examining the needs of the Negro child the Community Fund recognized the necessity to increase its support to both placement agencies caring for Negro children; this has made placement possible for a greater number of children. Standards, too, have been raised.

"The pattern of organization for child care," Miss Brownell observes, "remains one of almost complete segregation." On the "board" level, however, this pattern is breaking down. In one agency, originally formed by white board members for Negro children, both white and Negro members now serve on the board. Similarly, one agency formed by a Negro group now has a bi-racial board.

In Cleveland, the Children's Council of the Welfare Federation has long been articulate in calling for an integrated program to meet the needs of all children regardless of color. All the foster family care agencies in the city receive Negro and white children. However, "the institutions for Protestant children are not open to colored children and are not ready to change their policy." Also, "Catholic institutions" except for infants and pre-school children, exclude or receive them (Negro children) reluctantly."

This, then, is how placement is provided in three cities for Negro and white children. In Cleveland and New York the same agencies care for both Negro and white children. In Philadelphia, where most children are cared for by agencies which offer placement to Negro or white children, "the same standards of care are accepted . . . for both groups of children." One wonders if these cities would consider the possibility of a bi-racial temporary foster home as an expedient in meeting the present shortage of shelter facilities. Institutional facilities provided in segregated agencies, except for the

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institutions of the Archdiocese of New York, the Leake and Watts Home, several small institutions in New York, and the specialized institutions of Cleveland, "are definitely less adequate (for Negro children) than they are for white children."

Race discrimination should be eliminated from the field of child care. The change to an integrated program of care without regard to color will come because the community, the board, and the staff believe in equal care. As strong and persuasive as legal sanction is, it must be reinforced by the community's will. The development of New York City's Race Discrimination Amendment indicates that the law is potent only as the community is four square behind it.

"Child Care Facilities for Dependent and Neglected Negro Children in Three Cities" is a sound, meaty work. It covers much ground and raises a number of provocative questions. Miss Brownell's analyses of the responsibilities of the public and voluntary agencies, although not the central thesis, are penetrating and in themselves contributions. Although the "current observations" are dated—they are current as of 1944—the method and organization of this study makes it merit wide circulation among communities working with similar problems. This reviewer feels that an additional study, of a Southern and of a Pacific Coast community, would provide a valuable supplement to this volume.

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FOSTER HOME CARE FOR MENTAL PATIENTS, by Hester B. Crutcher. The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1944. 199 pp. \$2.

In present day social work when we think of "foster home care," we usually think of children placed with families because their parents do not care for them. However, Miss Crutcher, Director of Social Work of the Department of Mental Hygiene for the State of New York, in this volume presents a very strong and sound case for the use of foster families for certain types of mental patients who would otherwise spend long periods of time in mental hospitals, and for many types of mental defectives.

The author defines foster family care as the placing of mentally ill or defective patients with families other than their own for care.

Miss Crutcher states that the plan of using foster care for the above mentioned patients

is by no means a new and untried idea. She reports that it has been used by nine different states for several years, and it has been largely successful. In 1942, there were 1,256 mentally ill patients living with foster families, or about two patients in family care to one hundred under hospital care.

In a very serious effort to present her case for this type of care, Miss Crutcher validly asks, "Is it satisfying to a patient, or is it wise to keep a harmless person in a hospital for years because he hears pleasant imaginary voices, or has fixed ideas, or because his capacity to learn is distinctly limited?" She goes on to say that family care has given patients opportunities for growth and development in normal living to people long isolated and restricted because they have for the most part been dismissed or forgotten by a frightened or incensed public.

Several cases are cited of mental patients who made excellent adjustments to family living. For instance, Miss Crutcher tells us of a woman who had done little or nothing in the hospital, and when she was placed with a family she did all the family mending, and became very proud of this fact.

Miss Crutcher does not feel that foster care should be used instead of mental hospitals. She makes herself very clear about the fact that foster care could be used only for 2 to 25% of hospital patients according to various estimates. The use of foster care would be dependent upon the condition of the patient, the outlook for his recovery, his adjustment to institutional training, his response to intensive hospital treatment, etc.

Administratively, the writer states, the cost of maintaining mental patients in foster homes is about one-half the cost of maintaining them in the institution. This saving is effected despite the fact that board payments are made to foster families, clothing and allowances are provided, and there is regular supervision by a social worker.

On the whole this book is a factual presentation of a plan that is today in operation and which in the opinion of the author should be used more widely. The report is a carefully prepared one, and even though it is not too well written, it does present some very sound thinking on the validity of the plan and methods of putting it into practice.

This work is exceptionally timely and important today in that mental institutions all

over the country are facing a situation of serious overcrowding. Miss Crutcher's plan of foster care for mental patients, if more widely used, would certainly go a long way toward alleviating this problem.

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Brief Comments on Books Received

THE NIGHTINGALE'S SONG, by Dorothy Alofsin. Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1945. 306 pp. \$2.

Mrs. Alofsin, the well known writer on Jewish subjects for young people, has, in this book presented a story which is both fascinating and readable. Set in the rural atmosphere of a farm community we get a picture of the poignant longings and conflicts of a young adolescent Jewish girl. Differing from the usual picture of the Eastern European Jewish parent who is ready to give his all for the education of his children, we have here a parent who is more aware of the need for his own adjustment and the success of his venture and is thus ready to sacrifice his daughter's schooling for work. As the story develops we read of how in spite of all her difficulties, Deborah Warshaw triumphs in her quest for a literary career.

The book abounds in scenes depicting Jewish life and culture. There are also numerous Jewish terms and expressions.

The story as a whole is written with much warmth.

The book is recommended highly to young Jewish people who will undoubtedly find mirrored therein so much of themselves and their own struggles.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE: PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND SESSION, edited by Alexander S. Kohanski. American Jewish Conference, New York, 1945. 390 pp.

This volume presents the verbatim record of the general debate and discussion at the Plenary Meetings of the American Jewish Conference held in Pittsburgh during December, 1944. Summary accounts are also given of the committee meetings. Included, likewise, are the texts of resolutions adopted and a roster of the delegates and organizations represented at the Conference. It is very informative.

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THE ATTENDANT'S GUIDE, by Edith M. Stern. The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1945. 104 pp. \$50.

This small volume is a timely contribution to the field of mental health. Few institutions have suffered more from staff shortage, poor working conditions, and lack of training than have the mental hospitals. This is particularly true of the attendant's job which, by its very nature, involves much closer contact with the patient than other hospital personnel. This book is, in a sense, a brief training course for attendants. The language is simple and non-technical. It tends to elevate to a semblance of dignity the job of attendant and to give it its proper place in the institutional setting.

CONSIDER THE YEARS, by Joshua Trachtenberg. Temple Brith Sholom, Easton, Pa., 1944. 327 pp.

This book is a study of the Jewish Community of Easton, Pa., from 1752 to 1942. The author, a well known rabbi and scholar, has written one of the few existing historical accounts of the growth and development of an American Jewish community. In this narrative are described the early beginnings of community organization up to the more recent development of the Jewish community council.

Dr. Trachtenberg points out that in recent years although there have continued to exist a semblance of religious differences (orthodox, reform, etc.) in the community, the gradual emergence of "secular" interests such as the YMHA, allied appeals, Zionist activities, community council, etc., in which most of the Jews participate, have been a great unifying influence. These activities which formerly belonged within the synagogue, have raised the problem of the need for a re-evaluation of the place of the synagogue in the life of the community. Dr. Trachtenberg gives no answer.

Many "synagogue" conscious Jews will take issue with the author's feeling that "religion has retreated from the realm of controversy," and that, "objectively, there is no more 'Judaism' to be found in one congregation than in any of the others."

It is regrettable that the edition of the book has been limited to 300 copies. It is a valuable and interesting historical contribution and wider distribution might well act as a stimulus to other communities to engage in similar research.

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EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS OF LIVING, by O. Spurgeon English and Gerald H. J. Pearson. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1945. 438 pp. \$5.00.

The authors, well known psychiatrists, have written this "general" volume for workers in the field of inter-personal relations—teachers, clergymen, social workers, etc. Oriented to Freudian psychoanalytic thinking this book describes the different frictions generated within the individual and through his contacts with his environment. It presents a therapeutic approach in the hope of reducing these conflicts to a minimum.

HYPNOANALYSIS, by Lewis R. Wolberg, M.D. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1945. 342 pp. \$4.00.

This is an exhaustive account of the theory and practice of Hypnoanalysis which is defined as the use of hypnosis as an adjunct to psychoanalysis. The author feels that a skillful use of hypnosis during the psychoanalytic process can shorten that process. He cautions, however, against considering it a cure-all. The case presentation cited to illustrate the method is extremely interesting and convincing.

JEWISH BOOK ANNUAL, 1945-46, edited by Philip Goodman. Jewish Book Council of America, New York, 1945. 266 pp. \$1.00.

Since 1941, the Jewish Book Council of America, which is sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board, has published annually the "Jewish Book Annual." This volume is the fourth of the series.

Since it began publication the "Annual" has been unique in many ways. Not only has it contained valuable articles on the significance of Jewish books and their cultural implications, but in making the annual available in three languages, English, Yiddish, and Hebrew, it has performed a real service to all sections of Jews.

The present volume contains such articles as "The Year's Bookshelf," by Joshua Bloch; "Some Outstanding Jewish Books of the Twentieth Century," by Meyer Waxman; and a survey of critics' comments on Jewish books by Louis Rittenberg.

It is valuable and informative.

JEWISH TEACHING ON PEACE, by M. Wald. Bloch Publishing Co., New York, 1944. 291 pp. \$3.50.

This is a scholarly book by the Rabbi of the Jewish Community of East London, South

Africa. Its purpose is to present the Jewish view on peace and how the ideal of peace represents to the Jew the highest form of value and reality. In following through to this aim, Dr. Wald reviews the conception of peace as it appears in ancient and sacred Jewish literature, and its effect on Jewish personality throughout the ages.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF STATELESS PERSONS, by Marc Vishniak. American Jewish Committee, New York, 1945. 69 pp.

This is a scholarly historical analysis of the problem of statelessness describing the causes of individual and mass statelessness. It presents a picture of the events that gave rise to the problem after World War I and the advent of Hitlerism.

The author points out the failure of previous attempts to solve this problem and suggests a series of practical remedies.

OUR INNER CONFLICTS, by Karen Horney, M.D. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1945. 250 pp. \$3.00.

Dr. Horney, the well known psychiatrist and author, presents in this book the latest development of her thinking on conflicts and neuroses. A constructive theory is postulated in the belief "that man has the capacity as well as the desire to develop his potentialities and become a decent human being, and that these deteriorate if his relationship to others and hence to himself is, and continues to be disturbed. I believe that man can change and go on changing as long as he lives." This, Dr. Horney states, is in contradistinction to "Freud's pessimism as regards neuroses and their treatment which arose from the depths of his disbelief in human goodness and human growth. Man, he postulated, is doomed to suffer or to destroy. The instincts which drive him can only be controlled or, at best, sublimated."

This book is recommended to social workers of the different schools of thought who will find much challenge in it.

THE PALESTINE YEARBOOK, edited by Sophie A. Udin. Zionist Organization of America, Washington, 1945. 531 pp. \$2.00.

This volume is an extremely valuable reference book containing numerous articles on various phases of Palestine and Zionism by specialists in their respective fields. The book contains, in addition, a complete list of American organizations participating in Palestinian

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activities, and a comprehensive listing of Zionist periodicals and current books on Zionism, Palestine and related subjects.

THE PERSON IN THE BODY, by Leland E. Hinsie, M.D. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1945. 263 pp. \$3.00.

This book is presented as an introduction to psychosomatic medicine. The author lays special emphasis on the relationship that exists between emotions and bodily ills. He lists many of the common disorders that have been associated with emotions and illustrates with case material. Since the book is meant largely for the general reader little technical terminology is used.

This volume is a sound and valuable contribution to psychosomatic medicine, an approach that is steadily gaining ground.

PIRKE ABOOTH, by R. Travers Herford. Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, 1945. 176 pp. \$2.00.

This volume is the third revised edition of the well known work by the distinguished English Biblical scholar. Pirke Aboth (part of the Mishnah), more generally known as the "Sayings of the Father," is presented here in translation and commentary.

Mr. Herford, although a non-Jew, has been able to recapture in his work the true essence of Rabbinic Judaism. This has gained him the esteem of Biblical scholars everywhere.

PRIMARY BEHAVIOR DISORDERS IN CHILDREN. Two case studies by staff members of the Jewish Board of Guardians, New York. Family Welfare Association of America, New York, 1945. 59 pp.

In this pamphlet are described the psychotherapeutic methods developed in the Jewish Board of Guardians and its application in two case studies. Not all case workers will agree with the role of the case worker as presented in this material.

TWENTIETH CENTURY SOCIOLOGY, edited by Georges Gurvitch and Wilbert E. Moore. The Philosophical Library, New York, 1945. 754 pp. \$6.00.

The editors present a survey of the major developments in sociological science in the present century. There is an emphasis on stocktaking and a constructive assessment of present trends in sociological thought.

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