

Books and Reports

All reviews are prepared on invitation. Unsolicited reviews cannot be accepted.

The Practice of Dental Public Health. Proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on Dental Public Health, April 2-6, 1956.

Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Publications Distribution Service (412 Maynard St.), 1957. 198 pp. Price, \$3.00.

This document represents the proceedings of the Fourth Workshop on Dental Public Health held at the University of Michigan, April 2-6, 1956. Its subject was "Objectives and Evaluation of a State's Dental Program." These published proceedings reflect an obviously stimulating and particularly fruitful conference. The publication will be of great interest and real value beyond the scope of the workshop title.

The conference involved five areas of discussion: (1) dental program objectives, (2) indexes of oral health, (3) statistical technics for dental data, (4) terminology, and (5) communal self-appraisal of oral health conditions. Each area was the subject of one or more formal background lectures by appropriate authorities. For the most part these are sound presentations containing valuable information.

But what makes the publication particularly useful are the five committee reports. The committee which considered indexes of oral health concisely presents criteria for a useful index, a valuable chart comparing the applicability of proposed indexes, and an evaluation of available indexes. Another committee report includes a guide for planning studies and assembling data in this field. The report on terminology is a useful reference item, particularly for health officers and other nontdentists

with an interest in dental health. The report on community self-appraisal likewise contains sound material of real usefulness.

In short, this publication contains information about public health dental problems and the approach of public health dentistry which is not available elsewhere in so concise a form. It is therefore recommended without qualification, not only for public health dentists, but for health officers, health educators, family dentists, and anyone with an interest in this field.

ARTHUR BUSHEL

Your World and Mine—Essays On Human Relations—By Halbert L. Dunn.

New York: Exposition Press (386 Fourth Ave.), 1956. 94 pp. Price, \$3.00.

This is not an ordinary book for review but an extraordinary collection of essays from cover to cover dealing with modern human relations. From a religious standpoint it resembles the Confessions of Saint Augustine and Meditations of Thomas a Kempis. From the humanistic side it recalls the essays of Huxley and Spencer. It brings to mind the familiar phrase: "Know thyself, presume not God to scan, the proper study of mankind is man."

After reading the introduction and first few sections this reviewer could scarcely lay it aside on account of its deep interest, information, and helpfulness in interpreting the world in which we live today. The author unfolds in a logical fashion a number of practical ways in which he proceeds with:

1. Understanding Your World and Mine.
2. The Technique of Adjusting Your

World to Mine. 3. Application of the Technique of Adjustment. 4. Creative Destiny.

Proceeding through a number of delightful essays from the simple to the complex which lead to a "universal philosophy of living for mankind," Dr. Dunn comes to: "The Creative Spirit of man is penetrating the secrets of the atom and now is reaching outward towards the mysteries of the universe. The destiny of man flows from this creative spirit. Whether he will destroy himself as a civilized society or whether he will push forward in his conquest of knowledge of the universe depends largely upon his ability and willingness to shift his egocentric pattern, in which as an individual he finds himself the center of the world, to a sociocentric design, in which mankind as civilized society is the central focus." (Part IV, Essay 1.)

Dr. Dunn's wide experience in life, with a thorough background of education, travel, and association with students, gives to this book of essays a unique value of basic principles greatly needed in the troubled world today.

RICHARD ARTHUR BOLT

Problems of Aging—The collected reprints of the 19 lectures given at the 1955 Annual Graduate Fortnight of the New York Academy of Medicine—Edited by Robert L. Craig. New York: George Eliot (1302 Second Ave.), 1956. 240 pp. Price, \$3.50.

We have here in one volume a symposium on some recent developments in the field of geriatrics in particular of gerontology in general. One does not have to be a specialist on the physical afflictions of the aging to find this collection a rich source of information on the aging process. Some of the papers are highly technical and a nonmedical minded reader would need to have a medical dictionary of the latest edition quite handy.

However, there are other more easily understood papers which the lay reader may read with profit. To mention only three—"What Is Aging?" by Albert J. Lansing, Ph.D., Emory University, School of Medicine; "The Psychological Aspects of Aging," by Ross McFarland, Ph.D., Harvard University School of Public Health; and Professor Howard A. Rusk and Michael Dasco of New York University, "Rehabilitation in the Aged."

The summaries which conclude most of the papers are what the busy but inquiring minded social worker will most likely read first, but he need not limit himself to that. There is plenty of enlightening material not only for him but also for the psychologist, sociologist, educator, and even the politician! Here is not only the "voice of experience," but the word of the expert.

RAYMOND P. KAIGHN

Retarded Children Can Be Helped—

By Cornell Capa and Maya Pines. Great Neck, N. Y.: Channel Press, 1957. 159 pp. Price, \$5.00.

Growing out of a two-part series on mentally retarded children originally written for Life Magazine, this stimulating book has captured the spirit of dedication which prevails in the many workers and parents it so realistically pictures. In it, photographer Capa and writer Pines have succeeded in relating the experiences of the modern day pioneers in the field for the benefit of the many struggling workers who follow.

In directing attention to the variety of solutions to the problems of the mentally retarded, care has been taken to use the finest available example of each type of facility to illustrate the story. The attitude is, therefore, one of optimism and the stories told are those of success and hope, replacing the despair, misery, and shame, so common to this problem in the past.

Each of the ten chapters depicts one