
The smoke problem possesses a number of interesting aspects. The fogs of the British Isles are intensified and to some extent produced by coal smoke, and though the grate fire is not responsible for all the smoke in England, it may be held accountable for a great deal of it. Deposits from the smoke entail a considerable economic loss in damage to buildings and merchandise, harm to vegetation and also the depressing effect of gloomy weather. The cost of laundry and cleaning necessitated is enormous.

Societies have been formed to combat what is looked upon as a great nuisance. Public addresses directed against the smoke, full of eloquence and convincing argument, have for years been attentively listened to. Engineers, chemists, sanitarians, botanists and other scientists have made their investigations and submitted their reports. There has been an international smoke abatement exhibition. There is a national smoke abatement society. But little or no improvement has resulted.

This book gives in concise, convincing, impartial terms the main arguments in regard to the kinds of smoke produced by the various ways of burning different sorts of coal. It is an admirable summary of the scientific side of the smoke question as seen by the Emeritus Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Leeds and the Lecturer in Agricultural Economics at the Department of Agriculture, University of Leeds: the first, Julius B. Cohen, Ph.D., F.R.S.; the second, Arthur G. Ruston, D.Sc. The book contains records of observations which have been carried on at intervals during twenty years.

As to the effect of smoke on health, the authors say: “Among the many aspects of the smoke problem which are included in the present inquiry, it will be seen that those only have been studied which afforded a definite and unequivocal result. We have, in consequence, felt ourselves obliged to give the health question a subordinate place.”

Here is probably an explanation of why the smoke nuisance has not been abated long ago. It has been impossible to produce a convincing argument that smoke as experienced in England and even in Leeds, the center of the greatest industrial region in the world, is distinctly deleterious to health. The authors have had to go to Germany to find statistics to show that smoke injures health. However it may interfere with comfort and the cost of living, smoke as met with in English cities does not seem to injure health to a measurable extent.

The book under review sets forth, in language not too scientific to be understood by laymen, the composition of soot, the amount of soot-fall and how to measure it, the dispersal of soot, and the influence of smoke upon vegetation. It also discusses the established facts in regard to the gaseous impurities of the air which result from the burning of coal, particularly as those impurities affect masonry, metal work and vegetation. Means of determining the various polluting constituents of town air are described. Numerous tables of the results of atmospheric analyses are given.

This is a thoughtful, well-considered book which gives in easily readable form an excellent introduction to the subject of town smoke, particularly from the standpoint of the scientific investigator who may be called upon to study this question and from that of the intelligent citizen who wants to know as definitely and clearly as possible what he ought to know about this extremely interesting subject. The illustrations, graphs and tables add materially to the ease and pleasure of the book.

GEORGE A. SOPER

The Faith, the Falsity and the Failure of Christian Science—By Woodbridge Riley, Ph.D., Member of the American Psychological Association; Lecturer at the Sorbonne, 1980; Frederick W. Peabody, LL.D., Member of the Massachusetts Bar; and Charles E. Hamilston, M.D., Sc.D., Professor of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Illinois. 408 pp. Price, $3.50.

The object of this book, as stated by the authors, is to bring the facts to light in an endeavor to counteract the horrible teaching of this cult, which withholds medical attention and treatment from sick and suffering children, as well as from adults who on account of their condition, are often incapable of judgment. It is the production of three well known men, each of whom has had training to fit him for his part of this investigation. It is divided into three parts, as indicated in the title. Professor Riley shows distinctly that the origin of Christian Science is due to the notorious Quimby as
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proved by Mrs. Eddy's own statements, which, however, she later denied when she claimed it as a revelation made to herself.

The book shows the inconsistency of her teaching with Christianity, and her cult is peculiarly misnamed, since it is neither Christian nor science, but we are interested particularly from the standpoint of medicine and public health.

The second part of the book is written by the well known author of the "Religio-Medical Masquerade." His professional opportunities for getting facts have been unequaled, and it must be remembered that many of his statements are matters of court record. His charges have stood the test of time, and if he was a slanderer, the courts have been open for many years to convict him, yet no suit has ever been brought against him for his statements which are two-fisted and devoid of euphemisms.

Perhaps the most striking chapter in this part of the book is the registry of deaths of Mrs. Eddy's closest adherents and advisers in spite of their faith in the wonderful cures to which they testified. Finally, Mrs. Eddy herself died, or "passed on," from pneumonia, though the lungs have nothing to do with life!

The last part of the book is by a well known physician and surgeon who has collected from various sources many cases of death under the inhuman treatment, or lack of treatment, to which they were subjected. They are revolting and yet the author tells us that some of the cases investigated by him are too ghastly for publication in a book designed for general reading.

It is evident that the numbers of Christian Scientists have been vastly overestimated and misrepresented, as shown by the figures of the census, but it is not pleasant to realize that in this age of enlightenment a cult which combines the ignorance, credulity, and superstitions of the Dark Ages can be accepted by upward of one hundred thousand people in this country.

There may be some who will doubt the value of giving a review of this book in our JOURNAL. There are many physicians who pass Christian Science by as a cult which will have its day, as so many others have, and die, and there are still others who are glad to get rid of pestering patients with nothing the matter with them by referring them to Christian Science healers. We believe that Christian Science is a menace to our civilization. We deplore its constant fight against education and the raising of the standards of medical practice. We abhor the practice of allowing children to die of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and other terribly contagious diseases without medical aid, and without protection to those exposed, and in this particular respect lies its danger to the public. M. P. Ravenel

The Little Child in Our Great Cities—By W. Bertram Ireland. Published by The American Child Health Association, 1925. 201 pp. Price, $1.50.

As the last page of this book is turned one finds oneself saying, "How much, how much needs to be done!" Is anyone becoming a bit complacent about the preschool child and saying, "The preschool child is really coming into his own"? See to it that that one reads The Little Child in Our Great Cities, for then he or she will know that the door into "his own" is just opened a wee bit of a crack for the preschool child.

The book is divided into three sections: first, an introduction which gives the gist of the report, an argument for the preschool child and the way in which and by whom the report was prepared. Following the introduction is a report of the organized efforts in 24 cities in behalf of the preschool child. The last part, to quote from the introduction, is "devoted to the discussion of the different types of services in the entire group of cities with comments on their adequacy and obvious deficiencies." And how many the deficiencies!

To visit 24 cities in a year's time in order to ascertain what is being done for preschool children is nigh herculean a task to perform adequately and, therefore, anyone knowing any of these cities will be aware of incompleteness in the reports. A narrative account of work is an essential part of a report, for figures by themselves do not tell the whole story, but if some sort of tabulated report, similar for each city, could have been prepared it would have meant a more accurate and therefore more valuable picture of the work done. The reader, for example, would have known whether or not an omission of the mention of some type of work was due to the fact that it was not being done or to the fact that information had not been obtained. As the report now stands it is impossible to make comparisons between cities because of the great variation in the information given in the different reports.

In the last part of the book, discussing the