fundamental than the secondary measures of destruction of larvae or screening against the adult mosquito. They also urge the high value of the education of the community in the method and meaning of all the prophylactic measures against malaria and significantly attribute to the moral factor the function of dispersing certain forms of social opposition which may successfully nullify all efforts at malaria control. C. A. Koford

The Social Worker's Approach to the Problem of Venereal Disease—Published by the Committee on Venereal Disease of the Charity Organization Society of the City of New York, 1925. 26 pp. Price, 25 cents.

This statement on a subject of much importance to sanitarians is a most valuable and authoritative one. Dr. John H. Stokes, in his foreword, says, "The social worker and the follow-up system in dealing with venereal disease are part of medical research; in fact, the importance of observation and of the ability to follow the patient over a period of years is more vital in the problem of syphilis than in any other aspect of medicine."

The introduction outlines briefly and crisply the need for, and value of, social service follow-up in the control of syphilis and gonorrhea. As one illustration a study by the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor is cited, the pregnant women living in eight city blocks on the middle west side, a colored district, being the objects. The society states, "of the 1,224 pregnancies, coming under our supervision, 286 or 23.3 per cent were apparently complicated by syphilis. A study was made of the previous pregnancies of these women, and it was shown that they had ended in miscarriages and stillbirths in 20.8 per cent of the total number. The society made an earnest attempt to get these women, while under their care, under treatment for syphilis. This effort was only partially successful but even with partial treatment the percentage of miscarriages and still births was noticeably diminished to 11.1 per cent."

A useful chapter on "Terminology as Used in Venereal Disease Work" makes up the second section of the booklet. A discussion on "Infection," when, how, and where it exists and is transmitted, follows. The two remaining sections deal with "The Case Worker's Approach" and "The Relation of the Social Worker and the Hospital in the Attempt to Control Venereal Disease." The book recommendations and the case histories outlined add to the real merits of this report.

The committee responsible for the preparation and publication of this material deserves much credit for the brief, readable, and practicable suggestions. RAY H. EVERETT


The subject treated of in this book requires a wide scientific knowledge. Written for the lay public, the subject matter must be simplified, and terms which would not be acceptable in a scientific work must be used. In popular writing, it is always a question of how far scientific accuracy should be sacrificed to the lack of training in the reader for whom the book is designed. In general we think the author has hit a fair mean. The book is mostly sound from a scientific point of view, though it is not correct in many details of biology and other sciences. It is especially strong in the way it has simplified the sciences relating to the behavior of human beings, and presents them in a way that the average man can readily understand. The style of the book is peculiar, to say the least, and there are many errors in the grammatical structure. The author's style is best described by the word "stacatto," or machine gun. Sentences (?) of from one to four words abound, and in his attempt to be concise he sometimes leaves us in doubt as to which of two preceding propositions he refers.

Positive statements are sometimes made where caution would be advisable and where there is strong opinion to the contrary. The gibbon is said to be the most primitive ape, the most humanoid and nearest to the source of man's origin, which does not agree with the opinion of Osborn and Gregory that "the stem of the chimpanzee and the gorilla branched off at a more recent date and is more nearly allied to that of man." Recently devised blood tests also give evidence of the closer relationship of the chimpanzee than the other great apes. We are told that the premature closure of the sutures stops the growth of the brain, though anthropologists in general do not accept this view.

The chapter in which the author ventures into medicine and bacteriology is especially weak. It was submitted in whole or in part
to two scientific men, neither of whom is a bacteriologist. Elephantiasis is spoken of as being dropsy or edema of the leg, which it is not. He implies that all of us would suffer from elephantiasis if the lymph vessels did not contain valves so that the lymph must flow in one direction! In speaking of immunity and the test for human blood, we are told that "ape's" blood is so closely related to human blood "they are almost twins," and we can use ape's blood as a specific antigen in developing the antibodies by which we detect human blood. The use of the word "ape" in this respect is loose, and the information as given is news to serologists. A new etiology for pernicious anemia is given, namely the tertian malarial parasite. There is confusion in the use of the word "spore" in connection with malarial parasites. It is applied to the asexual merozoite and the sexual sporozoite alike, and we are told that the "wart" (oöcyst) "breaks up into spores each of which produces myriads of thread-like bodies." Quotidian fever is for the author synonymous with estivo-autumnal. In the World War we are told that there was one death in American troops from typhoid fever for every 25,000 soldiers. The official figures show 287 deaths among 4,128,478 soldiers, or approximately one death for every 14,000 men.

Koch is said "to have given the human race its first rational theory of disease," an achievement which is universally and correctly credited to Pasteur. We find other surprising statements. "Bacteria" are said to "defy hours of boiling water"—a curious measurement to say the least, while their spores (which are very much more resistant than the bacteria) "resist a temperature of 212 degrees." This is a typical example of the loose statements one finds scattered throughout the book. The term "tubercular" instead of "tuberculous," which is the correct form, is used.

The latter half of the book is in the main better written than the first half. A quotation will give an idea of the author's method of treatment: "There is nothing simple about our nervous system, nor even of any one of its billions of component cells, but as long as we keep in mind its nature we can make progress in understanding it—and that is a long step towards understanding pa, ma, and the baby."

The book is interesting and holds the attention, but we cannot understand why so many errors have been allowed to enter. "Science for the Layman" should be more exact if any-thing than for the scientific man, since the latter knows how to protect himself. It is a question whether the incorrect statements will not do an amount of harm to the public which will counterbalance the good of those which are correct.

M. P. RAVENEL


This interesting book is the result of studies which have extended over 14 years. During this time physical measurements have been made of some thousand "Old Americans" in an endeavor to determine the characteristics of the American type, which the author holds has arrived. The so-called typical American is easily recognized by foreigners. The author asks if the influence of new environment and habits of American life have resulted in such perceptible modifications of physical characteristics as to form a well recognized type? If so, are they in the direction of improvement or is there some degeneration?

He defines "Old Americans" as white people whose ancestors on each side of the family were born in the United States for at least 2 generations—that is, all of those whose parents, as well as all 4 grandparents, were born in this country. The stock which he has studied is made up of those whose ancestors on both sides of the family were all in this country before 1830. Actually the ancestors of many have been here much longer, some going back beyond 1700.

The author concludes that the Old American is slender, with narrow hands and feet, with brown as the prevailing color of the hair, a long oval face, reduced cheek bones, relatively long nose, moderately developed jawbone, and thin lips. He is frank, healthy and intelligent. The Old American stock is nearer to the stock of Great Britain than any other branch of whites. It is as different from any of its component factors as English, Irish, and Scotch types are different from each other. From the morphological standpoint all of the characteristics of the Old American are favorable, showing in some respects perceptible improvement and in none degeneration. The only stock found in America which differs perceptibly from others, and in some points disadvantageously, is that of the isolated Appalachian highlanders. Inbreeding and lack of cultural development appear to be responsible for this.