BOOK REVIEWS

All reviews are prepared on invitation. Unsolicited reviews cannot be accepted. Opinions expressed are entirely those of the reviewers.


During March, 1967, a symposium focusing on LSD was held at the Wesleyan University Chapel. LSD, Man and Society is the edited version of this symposium. Much credit should be given to the editors for putting together the diverse material into highly readable form. Credit should also be given to the organizers of the symposium, which was much needed then and is still greatly needed.

Credit for the participants—who covered the motivation of LSD use; its therapeutic potential; consequences of its use; the relation of LSD to religious experiences; law and medicine; and the pharmacology, neurophysiology, and behavioral effects of LSD—must be questioned.

The participants gave a good scholarly overview of the various facets of LSD use. The audience, through their questions, attempted to put the panel members on the spot. By and large, however, both panelists and audience avoided the critical contemporary issue of offering viable nondrug, non-LSD alternatives to living. Most drug symposia and publications fall into the trap of focusing on a drug and its relative dangers, and implicitly or explicitly assume that some drugs plus people equal a drug problem. LSD plus people in a particular environment may result in an LSD problem. Today we are living in such an environment—which can best be described as being committed to the notion of progress through chemistry.

It may seem unfair to focus on what a symposium and its edited message did not do, rather than what it did accomplish. We can, however, expect that experts in a given field will lead us into uncharted areas and illuminate them. The symposium failed to do this. However, it did succeed in giving a very good overview of LSD and, until new written material appears, this volume should be a standard reference for lay and professional alike.

STANLEY EINSTEIN


Here is a new and long needed text for an “introduction to nursing” course, and for inservice education in all settings where the nursing process is utilized.

The authors describe the why, who, what, when, where, and how of nursing care plan or assessment and intervention. The first seven chapters are devoted to delineating the rationale for planning patient care and how to implement it with the personnel available. Chapter summaries and study questions will stimulate more independent searching for answers on the part of students.

The last four chapters were written for the person who is directly involved in implementing the concept of systematically planned nursing care or assessment as a basis for nursing intervention in already established agencies and institutions.

More of a balance between the physiological and psychosocial backgrounds and needs of patients could have been built into the examples of patients and their problems used by the authors.
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We must begin talking about the ethnic, social, and regional background of a patient—e.g., black, Polish, Jewish, Appalachian—and the implications for his care, or planning will be irrelevant, as it so often is at this time. There are no new concepts in this book. Its worth is the fact that many concepts have been brought together in meaningful perspective. I shall utilize it in my inservice education program.

Gloria D. Bicham


In the introductory sentence to this health survey report the authors state, “Because of its geographical isolation, successful avoidance of foreign domination, and political isolation until 1950, the rural parts of Nepal represent one of the few areas of the world in which a traditional, pre-industrial ecologic balance between man and his environment might be studied with modern investigational techniques.”

After three years of careful planning, a broad-spectrum survey of health conditions and programs in Nepal was carried out during 1965 and 1966. In this small, 12-chapter volume are presented a succinct, factual report of the methodologies used in the study, problems encountered, summary of findings, and recommendations for approaches to meeting the health problems identified.

The data presented in the 31 tables and 19 figures in the body of the report are well chosen to support the findings described in summary form in the narrative. This is supplemented by appendices giving sample forms used in the study, an entomological report, and by an appropriate bibliography.

As one who has been involved to some degree in such studies in the United States and has observed health conditions in a number of lesser developed countries, this reviewer’s reaction to the study and report is one of admiration and appreciation.

The report is a significant contribution to the descriptive literature on the “ecologic balance between man and his environment,” and on how the application of “modern investigational techniques” can elucidate the health status of the population.

This small volume could well be included on the recommended reading list for all public health students and should be fascinating and instructive reading for any public health professional.

Malcolm H. Merrill


This book on industrial therapy constitutes a first and fills a very significant gap that has existed in the American literature on the rehabilitation of the mentally ill. It would be unreasonable to expect a first book on a newly emerging field to be comprehensive. However, Mr. Black has the professional background and experience to make it so. Industrial therapy is defined by Mr. Black in a “generic sense to include all those rehabilitation and socialization programs for mental patients in which activities of the world are utilized most usually in simulation of a real work situation.” Industrial therapy so defined has formed a significant component of numerous treatment and rehabilitation programs engaged in the restoration of the chronic and long-hospitalized psychiatric patients, both in this country and abroad. This book gives us an “overview” of the most important ones.

Following a brief introductory section, the book describes the European backgrounds of industrial therapy. Ex-