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Studies of the various types of general-practitioner records with a view to preparing a phototype incorporating the best pictures of each type.

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A detailed study of the organization, operation, efficacy, and acceptability of general practice in as many forms as possible over a wide area.

Measles Vaccines. A report of a WHO Scientific Group. WHO Technical Report Series No. 263. London. H.M. Stationery Office. 1963. Pp. 40. Price 3s.6d.

This report contains the collective views of an international group of experts on the development of measles vaccines. It presents detailed information about many aspects of the subject in good readable English. A short summary on previous studies of Enders' Edmonston B strain vaccine is followed in greater detail by short reports about work in Yugoslavia, Japan, U.S.S.R., Nigeria, Britain, and America. Later chapters discuss the value and limitations of killed and attenuated live vaccines, severe reactions after vaccination, contra-indications to measles vaccines and precautions in their use, and the safety testing of present and future vaccines. Finally the reader is given a brief indication of the lines which future studies should follow.

Any family doctor who expects to use or be asked about measles vaccine should read this report soon.

Age and Need. A Study of Older People in North-east Scotland. I. M. RICHARDSON, M.D., PH.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. vi + 124. Price 25s.

Any book published under the imprimatur of a regional hospital board, sponsored by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust and issuing from the department of social medicine of a great university must command immediate attention and respect. In his introduction to this survey the author reveals how it resulted from a conference convened by the North-east (Scotland) Regional Hospital Board to examine the statutory and voluntary services for old people in that area. Dr Richardson stresses the special role of hospital boards in localized research schemes of this kind and suggests that the "regional co-ordinating function of a hospital board could, perhaps, be developed more widely".

Dr Richardson and his research team of two doctors, both experienced in and familiar with the problems of general practice, and two trained social workers launched a well-planned and carefully executed enquiry into the medical and social needs of nearly 500 ageing men and women drawn from eleven randomly chosen practices in the city and rural

environments of Aberdeen. The result is an impressive and invigorating addition to the expanding literature of gerontology.

This penetrating little book, whose modest size is inversely proportionate to its importance as a scientific study of some aspects of the Welfare State, pays particular attention to unmet medical need. The research team found that 12 per cent of the city and ten per cent of the country samples were in need of medical care and were not in contact with their family doctors. They found further that ten per cent of those interviewed were depressed, that nearly half had had no eyesight test in three years, that 12 severely deaf people lacked hearing investigation; that there were "almost as many old people again in need of health visiting as there were using this service; more unmet needs for home helps than there was met need". He concludes that such findings provide no grounds for complacency.

Although this work is directed primarily to 'amateurs' in the home care of the elderly it must have special appeal to those with professional responsibilities towards the old whose consciences are not wholly at ease in regard to the discharge of those responsibilities.

Public and Community Health. W. S. PARKER, V.R.D., Q.H.P., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H. London. Staples Press. 1964. Pp. ix + 196. Price 38s.

This book sets out to be an introduction to the various aspects of preventive and social medicine and is aimed at a readership which will include the medical student, the student nurse and the social worker in training. It is factual and so far as the facts go it is authoritative. The picture, however, is of a pattern of public health practice which is of the past. Conventional local authority public health doctrine is presented to the reader in a manner which suggests that the community only needs evolution to continue by easy stages along traditional lines. No more is necessary than that the Ark of the Covenant be carried forward among the people, that they may bow down before it. Perhaps it is unfair to expect that a vocational textbook should include mention of the exciting new developments in community care which are taking place as personal health care is properly shared between the practitioner and the medical officer of health. On three occasions the general practitioner is mentioned (Pp. 131, 144, 149) as one whose collaboration may be sought. He is once mentioned as a possible disruptive factor to the planned routine of the round of a district midwife, and on page 145 he receives a homily to the effect that health visitors should not be misused by him in the clinical field.

The author can hardly be unaware of the trends of the times, that local authority clinics are shrinking whilst preventive health care is taken up by the family doctor whose own antenatal and well-baby care is supported by the more enlightened of his colleagues. No hint of recognition of the part played by family doctors in the maintenance of public immunization states nor of the load which they expect to carry when a failure in world