

by the use of psychiatric knowledge and techniques directed in the community sphere, rather than in the traditional doctor-patient relationship, and with an accent on prevention of mental breakdown as well as treatment and rehabilitation.

The author, who is associate professor of mental health at Harvard University, has a wide international experience in this new and exciting field, including work in the Tavistock Clinic in London, as well as in Israel and many European countries. He is consultant to the famous Peace Corps, and his advisory pamphlet to the Peace Corps trainees on adjustment overseas makes an interesting appendix.

The book is planned as volume one of a trilogy. The second and third volumes are to deal with more detailed problems of technique for the specialist worker, but this volume according to the preface is "designed to interest a wide audience—social scientists, professional workers in other fields and students of community affairs."

Preventive psychiatry in Dr Caplan's concept has as its aim the reduction of the incidence of mental disease of all types, its duration when it occurs, and the impairment which may result. In the community field the psychiatrist does not normally have direct contact with the individual patient, but rather exercises his influence through the work of professional 'care-givers' such as doctors, nurses, teachers or clergymen on the one hand, and also less directly through what he terms 'key citizens' or 'helpful people' on the other—those whose occupations and natural understanding make them liable to be turned to by their fellow-citizens in an emergency.

The family doctor does not appear to occupy a prominent place in Dr Caplan's scheme—nurses and teachers being more to the fore in such existing community mental health schemes in the U.S.A. As he stresses the importance, for the community psychiatrist, of working initially with those groups who show most interest and enthusiasm, there is perhaps a moral here.

This book deals with what may well be the "shape of things to come" in the field of mental health. The general practitioner who wishes to play a full and useful part in this work will find here an excellent introduction to the issues and methods involved.

Leprosy in Theory and Practice. R. G. COCHRANE, M.D., CH.B. (Glas.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. & H. (Eng.), and T. F. DAVEY, C.B.E., M.D., CH.B. (Manch.), M.Sc. (Lond.). Bristol. John Wright and Sons Ltd. 1964. Pp. xviii + 659. Price 115s.

In the second edition of *Leprosy in Theory and Practice* Dr R. G. Cochrane has been joined by Dr T. F. Davey as co-editor and the scope of the book has been greatly extended so that this edition has been rightly hailed as the finest textbook on leprosy that has yet been produced.

Dr Davey, whose work in Nigeria is known to leprologists the world over, is a field research worker of the first order and his special contribu-

tion in the evaluation of new treatments and the follow-up of cases is particularly important.

Dr Cochrane has devoted most of his professional life to the study of leprosy. Since his early years as Professor of Medicine at Vellore Medical College he has striven to bring method and order into research and knowledge of all aspects of this disease and, in particular, to divest it of its emotional overtones. Great as his own contribution to the knowledge of leprosy has been, perhaps his most important achievement has been the enthusiasm he has fired in others and through which he has inspired experts in the basic sciences as well as specialist clinical departments to tackle the protean aspects of research in leprosy and to have persuaded them to make their contribution each in their special fields. Dr Cochrane and Dr Davey have brought all these together into a co-ordinated and readable volume which represents the best of modern thought on this subject from the finest authorities in every part of the world. The skill of the editors makes one feel that the volume has been designed and contributed as one whole.

No less than 43 authors have co-operated to cover every aspect of leprosy from a historical survey to its spread throughout the world, through bacteriology including the submicroscopic appearance of the lepra bacillus, on to pathology and neuro-anatomy, thence to immunology and clinical aspects including every possible complication. A full detailed account on modern developments in treatment both of the disease and its complications, and fascinating details on reconstructive surgery of the face and trophic and other deformities lead, by way of physiotherapy and occupational therapy, to consideration of prognosis and criteria of discharge. It ends with a considerably extended section on preventive aspects.

The influx of immigrants into Britain makes the possibility of seeing a case of leprosy in general practice considerably greater than it was a few years ago and, while this volume is clearly not a 'must' on a general practitioner's bookshelf, it should be found in every university and central library as a book of reference.

Soil-Transmitted Helminths. Report of a WHO Committee on Helminthiases. World Health Organization, Geneva. 1964. Pp. 70. Price 5s.

In a matter of 70 pages a wide and detailed coverage is given to all soil transmitted helminths. As this problem is largely a tropical one it is therefore not of very great application in the United Kingdom. However, it should be remembered that in those areas where there has been large scale immigration from tropical territories the immigrant population carry a considerable risk of introducing infection. If sanitary standards are allowed to fall indigenous transmission could become a very real possibility where no intermediate host is involved. Visceral larva migrans is being more frequently recognized today and cases have been reported from the United Kingdom and this subject is dealt with in considerable detail.

With an increasing number of the population taking their holidays