

## Book Reviews

### Health and Welfare in Sweden

**Perspectives in Health Planning.** By Arthur Engel, M.D. (Pp. 88 + vii ; illustrated. 25s.) London : Athlone Press, 1969.

These lectures, given by Dr. Engel on his retirement as Director General of the National Board of Health of Sweden, are a review of the problems that have arisen in Swedish public health in recent years. Dr. Engel outlines the methods used to meet these problems and suggests ways to meet the increasing demands for medical care. The state of continuous change in modern society and its environment is his theme. People are demanding more and more from the Welfare State ; use of medicaments has risen enormously, and the demand for hospital beds is growing. The demand for medical attention will rise rapidly as the ageing of the population continues. The author estimates that institutional care will be necessary for 55 per 1,000 of the population aged 70 and over. The pattern of disease has undergone considerable change in recent years ; many of the infective diseases have disappeared or become relatively unimportant, while there has been an increase in cardiovascular disease and malignant neoplasms. Accidents and

poisonings are responsible for a large part of the work of hospitals, and are also major causes of disability and are of great social importance.

These changes in disease pattern and environment together with the discoveries in the field of medicine and technology necessitate radical changes in the approach to the management of disease. It is fundamental to any system of health planning that a good system of statistical information should be available not only for future planning but for the routine work of the public health services. Dr. Engel is not in favour of lifetime records. He suggests "that amassing such an astronomical amount of factual information and personal opinion would be difficult to handle, and that 'too much of it would be left untouched by human mind,' to use Sir George Godber's words."

Sweden, in common with other countries, has a shortage of doctors, nurses, and medical auxiliaries. To meet the growing demands for preventive medicine some methods of

screening are necessary. Doctors' and nurses' time could be saved if the screening process could be carried out by less highly trained personnel, and the methods should be automated as far as possible. Such a programme has been carried out in Sweden based on 88,959 persons, but the complete analysis has not yet been finished. The preliminary results are interesting, and for some conditions the method of screening was not very satisfactory. The chemical and clinical tests found only 38.7% of the active cases of tuberculosis, about 50% of malignant tumours of the lung, and 18% of the sarcoidosis cases.

Dr. Engel has presented a very interesting, informative, and readable account of the trends of preventive medicine and public health in Sweden and of the development and working of the regional hospital system which he designed. Some of the ways in which he suggests medical care should be advanced are probably controversial, but to give the best health service with the finance and labour force available must be the aim of all. These lectures will repay study by persons interested in public health, social medicine, and in regional hospital systems.

W. J. MARTIN.

### Emergence of Psychiatry

**Modern Perspectives in World Psychiatry.** Edited by John G. Howells, M.D., D.P.M. (Pp. 787 + xxxvi ; illustrated. £8 8s.) Edinburgh and London : Oliver & Boyd, 1968.

Once upon a time General Medicine had a daughter. Her name was Psychiatry. She was unprepossessing and unloved. She lived in a remote neo-Gothic citadel surrounded by a moat filled with three evil liquors, Ignorance, Prejudice, and Fear. But the gallant Sir Sigmund, hearing of Psychiatry's plight, stormed the citadel on his shining white couch. And now all is transformed. The moat is drained (nearly), and Psychiatry has emerged as General Medicine's most glamorous daughter courted by scions of the noblest academic families in the land.

A fairy story? Not by any means. Think of the spate of heavyweight, vastly expensive tomes to appear of late with "psychiatry" in some guise appearing on the title-page ; and think too of the assortment of contributors of each and every academic discipline who scramble to get between the covers. The countries of origin of the contributors of the book under review are widespread, and might therefore justify its claim to represent the world. But what strange bedfellows they make to be sure, and how some of them come to speak for psychiatry within the accepted limitations of its terms of reference is a matter of considerable puzzlement. There is, *inter alia*, a geneticist, an anatomist, an ultrastructural cytochemist, a zoologist, a psychophysicist, and a neuro-

physiologist. As might be expected, the range of subjects covered is wide, from, for example, "The Cytology of Brain Cells and Cultured Nervous Tissue," to another chapter with a somewhat more exotic title "Morita's Theory of Neurosis and its Application to Japanese Psychotherapy."

And how modern is "modern," which also occurs in the title of the book? Not a little of the material has appeared in previous publications, and not all of these are of recent vintage. Even Lord Adrian's otherwise admirable introduction is in part based on an address to the annual general meeting of the B.M.A. at Edinburgh in 1959. This is not to say that some of the contributions, relevant and irrelevant, are not in themselves first class. This is especially so in the case of the late Lord Brain's essay "The Meaning of Memory," which, we are informed, was his last major writing. It could indeed serve as his own epitaph so characteristic is it of the crystal clarity of his thinking and the elegance of his prose.

HENRY R. ROLLIN.

### Maxillo-facial Injuries

**Fractures of the Facial Skeleton.** 2nd edition. By N. L. Rowe, F.D.S. R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and H. C. Killey, F.D.S. R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. (Pp. 396 + xviii ; illustrated. £11.) Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone, 1968.

The second edition of *Fractures of the Facial Skeleton*, by Rowe and Killey, is a first-class publication. The scope of the book has been enlarged by new or revised chapters on

"head injuries" and "the care of the unconscious patient," "medico-legal aspects of maxillo-facial injuries," "the structure of bone and the process of bone repair," and "the use of drugs in maxillo-facial surgery." This book must rank as one of the most up-to-date and complete publications on the subject anywhere in the world, and no one who pretends to practise seriously in the field of maxillo-facial injuries can afford to be without it. As a book of reference it is first-class, and the bibliography, references, and indices are exhaustive and pertinent. The illustrations, which include line drawings, photographs, radiographs, and statistical tables, are clear and appropriate to the text. If anything, the illustrations are so good and so numerous that the reader is tempted to skip through, without giving due consideration to the text, which is a pleasure to read as well as being an education.

It seems to me that the information in Chapter 40 on "the evolution of the treatment of maxillo-facial injuries," and in the statistics contained in the first part of the appendix, is of sufficient interest to justify a position at the beginning of this work, as an introduction to the subject, rather than as it appears at present, at the end, where it might be overlooked. This, however, is a small point, and certainly of no consequence to anyone who intends to read the volume as a whole, where the change of theme is certainly a relaxation from the strictly clinical nature of the remainder of this fine work.

The publishers have maintained a very high standard of production, but it is unfortunate that the price of £11 will put it beyond the reach of many.

R. O. WALKER.