

in the discovery of x rays. The work is to be commended to all who are engaged in radiographic work.

S. COCHRANE SHANKS.

SUBVERSION OF CHARACTER

The Freudian Ethic. By Richard La Piere. (Pp. 299+x. 25s.) London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1960.

Professor La Piere, like many modern sociologists, is concerned with what Dr. Franz Alexander calls the Western mind in transition. He goes much further than Dr. Alexander, however, and indicates this by his subtitle, "An Analysis of the Subversion of Western Character." Although he expressly disavows any intention to attribute this subversion to "the Freudian Doctrine of Man," he is convinced that the spread of what he takes to be Freudian views on life will hasten the disintegration of the "Protestant Ethic," which, if unchecked, will lead to disaster, in the United States at any rate. For it was, it would seem, the Protestant Ethic that was responsible for the self-reliance and enterprise of the West. By way of example he singles out the "permissive" system of child-upbringing, the "progressive" school, the alleged "condonation" of crime, and the cult of "security," all of which concordant tendencies, he feels, are sustained by Freudian theory.

It is a pity that Professor La Piere should have been distracted by this particular bee; in the first place because his grasp of Freudian principles and their implications is none too strong; and in the second because he does not distinguish between qualified Freudian opinion and the practices of educational and social faddists. These, one gathers, flourish more rapidly in the United States than elsewhere; although we, too, have our share of faddists, including sometimes both psychiatrists and psycho-analysts.

When, however, the author succeeds in forgetting his obsession with what he conceives to be Freudian doctrine, as he does in the last third of his book, he reveals himself as a sociologist of considerable penetration. His analyses of the "new bourgeoisie," "modern guildism," and "political maternalism" are well worthy of consideration. All that is lacking is a constructive political philosophy calculated to arrest the seeming decay of which Professor La Piere is so fearful.

EDWARD GLOVER.

SOME VIRUS DISEASES

Newer Virus Diseases. Clinical Differentiation of Acute Respiratory Infections. By John M. Adams, M.D., Ph.D. (Pp. 292+xvi; illustrated. 40s.) New York and London: The Macmillan Company. 1960.

This book has a pleasant format and is not as long as its 292 pages might suggest. The author is a professor of paediatrics who has for many years been interested in virus disease of the respiratory tract, and has made a special study of the relation between measles and dog distemper. The book is intended for the practising physician. There is a chapter on influenza and parainfluenza virus infections, and others on adenovirus diseases, enterovirus diseases, measles, distemper, and primary pneumonitis, and on Q fever, psittacosis, and leptospirosis. There are brief descriptions of streptococcal infections, diphtheria, and fungal infections of

the respiratory tract, and also of some probable virus diseases such as infectious mononucleosis. These are presumably included because they may enter into the differential diagnosis of respiratory virus infections. It is interesting to find also a discussion of sudden unexpected death in infancy.

The book is on the whole easy to read, though some phrases are ambiguous and there are some inaccuracies, such as the statement (p. 252) that Andrewes *et al.* (1951) "showed differences with chilling and exposure so far as susceptibility of human volunteers [to common colds] was concerned." The author has reviewed most of the very recent literature remarkably well, and there is a good section on the management of cases of suspected respiratory virus infection. Nevertheless, it seems to the reviewer that an attempt has been made to cover too wide a field, so that the book is marred by some very elementary or fragmentary sections such as those on anatomy and physiology, arbor virus infections, and primary tuberculosis.

D. A. J. TYRRELL.

MEASURING pH

A Symposium on pH and Blood Gas Measurement: Methods and Interpretation. Edited by Ronald F. Woolmer, V.R.D., B.A., B.M., F.F.A. R.C.S. Assisted by Joy Parkinson, B.A. (Pp. 210+viii; illustrated. 30s.) London: J. and A. Churchill, Ltd. 1959.

As students, many of us felt that we had reached the zenith of scientific attainment when we understood that pH represented a certain degree of acidity or alkalinity in terms of hydrogen-ion concentration. Fortunately there were others with more inquiring minds who realized that this basic fact had a deeper significance, and now a relationship between lungs, kidneys, and the maintenance of pH has been built up which extends far beyond academic study to embrace life and death itself. This symposium reports the work, the thoughts, and the hopes of some 25 experts expressed at a meeting held in December, 1958. If the foresight in bringing together research workers, clinicians, anaesthetists, and instrument manufacturers on common ground was not rewarded by firm conclusions, it nevertheless provided a vast supply of information on a complex subject.

Professor Woolmer has marshalled and edited this material with remarkable efficiency in a compact and convenient form for all who may be interested. Nowhere else can so much up-to-date knowledge be found within so small a compass, and this book may well be regarded as a "Recent Advances" in the subject. Since few can afford to remain in total ignorance of this complicated, yet essential, aspect of biochemical physiology, it is unfortunate that little guidance is given to the practising clinician, and, unless the reader has a better than average grasp of the subject, such a wealth of erudition will confound rather than enlighten.

R. BRYCE-SMITH.

THE ELDERLY

Social and Medical Problems of the Elderly. By Kenneth Hazel, M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.E., D.P.M. (Pp. 216. 30s.) London: Hutchinson Medical Publications. 1960.

It is difficult to see to whom this work is addressed. The general practitioner will find in it a restatement of the very well known difficulties of his elderly patients, but little mention of the part which he himself plays.