

In a sense, the two books are complementary. Wilson and Ryland in the fourth part of their work, "Supervisory and Administrative Processes," deal with some of the same problems to which Dimock and Trecker devote their whole book. The difference, however, lies in the treatment. Whereas Wilson and Ryland are primarily concerned with establishing and documenting a rational division of labor between the professional and the volunteer, Dimock and Trecker give much more specific and thorough treatment to the skills and techniques of supervision and go into much detail, without—fortunately—failing to relate techniques to their underlying principles.

Both books are the result of co-operative efforts. The Dimock-Trecker work reveals not only the geographical distance of the two authors, but also the different educational emphasis of their respective institutions. Mr. Trecker is a professor at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Southern California and Mr. Dimock is the Dean of George Williams College in Chicago, which has been pioneering in the training of personnel for agencies where group work skills are primarily needed. For instance, in Chapter 4, which has been written by Dimock, a differentiation is made between group work and the professions "with which it is closely associated—education and social work, for example. . . ." For some time social workers have considered group work as one of the processes of social work. The apparent lack of a common point of view may also account for the difficulty the reader has in arriving at a clear-cut understanding of the differences between recreation and group work.

The work by Wilson and Ryland, who seem to have produced here the fruits of much shared thinking and working together in the same institution, stands out by the unity of its conception and the evenness of its limpid and simple style. Structurally the book falls into four parts, which present a theoretical exposé of the group work method, an analysis of program media, records of social group work practice, and the already-mentioned examination of the supervisory and administrative processes. These four parts are fused to-

gether by the authors' explicitly stated philosophy of social welfare—"the welfare of all by all." This philosophy has given rise to a conceptual framework which makes the authors see social work as an institution "which society has developed for the purpose of helping its members better to meet communal and individual interests and needs." This helping function is discharged in a variety of ways, primarily by working with individuals and with groups. Group work, according to the authors' well-tested hypothesis, utilizes the same basic skills as case work. It is "a process and a method through which group life is affected by a worker who consciously directs the interacting process toward the accomplishment of goals which in our country are conceived in a democratic frame of reference."

Supported by such a sound theoretical basis, the authors never run the risk of extolling techniques at the expense of objectives. Their concern with the values to be obtained from the group work process leads them to include a useful analysis of program media, again conceived as means and not as ends, and to illustrate the group process by a rich and well-chosen array of record material. The well-documented and extensive bibliography adds to this book's value as an unusually stimulating and thought-provoking work for both teacher and student. Its logical structure, which is enhanced by its inner cohesion and integration, lends this work an aesthetic quality and a beauty rarely found in professional literature.

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PRAY, KENNETH L. M. *Social Work in a Revolutionary Age*. Pp. x, 308. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1949. \$4.00.

This collection of eighteen papers was prepared and published for the Pennsylvania School of Social Work in memory of Kenneth Pray who was associated with the school from 1919 until his death in 1948. They were selected by the editors as the most representative of his contributions to social work, and are presented in four parts: Early Formulations of Philosophy,

Public Welfare, Penology, and Final Statements of Philosophy. All but four of the papers have been published elsewhere. The editors' statement that there are many unpublished papers raises a question as to whether more of them might not have been included. The four papers not previously published add greatly to the value of the book.

All but two of the papers were prepared as addresses to be given to some group. Their style is intimate and personal, and reflects Pray's deep emotional identification with the social work movement. Often they illustrate his struggle to rationalize social work concepts into a logical system. Therefore they contain many efforts at precise definitions of social work concepts, and also many attempts at reconciling seeming paradoxes in social work loyalties. This was inevitable from Pray's concept of social workers as playing "an integrative role between individual and community, not for one as against the other, but for both, in the interest of both." These papers were meant to be inspirational to members of the social work profession, and as such, they constituted much of the strength of Pray's leadership in social work. They usually sounded much better than they read, especially when given in the sincere and convincing delivery that he could so well effect.

The most informative and the easiest to read and grasp are the papers which were not prepared as addresses. The best example is the one entitled "A Plan for the Treatment of Unemployment." Here Pray's early experience and skill as a newspaper writer is evident in his simple and forceful description of the findings of an important Philadelphia committee which studied this problem in 1933. Its publication in the *Survey* in 1933 had an important effect in shaping the opinions of social workers throughout the country on the policy of relief giving.

The book contains a bibliography of Pray's more important articles and published addresses, and a short biographical summary. It is unfortunate that more attention was not paid to proofreading.

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STROUP, HERBERT HEWITT. *Social Work*. Pp. xvi, 695. New York: American Book Company, 1948. \$4.50.

This book presents a broad and inclusive picture of the field of social work and is intended largely for the use of undergraduate students and as a resource for the interested layman.

The first two chapters deal with the nature, the scope, and the history of American social work. Six chapters follow on family case work, children in institutions and foster homes, school social work, child guidance clinics, and social work with delinquents and criminals. Medical and psychiatric social work, the structure and process of public welfare, and group work and community organization are also treated in separate chapters and in the order noted. Selected readings at the close of each chapter comprise an excellent bibliography.

It is exceedingly difficult, no matter how skilled one may be in the organization of material and in the art of writing, to produce a well-balanced and authoritative description of the rapidly growing and complex field of social work. Professor Stroup followed a wise course in seeking the assistance of a number of experienced social work administrators and practitioners, some of whom read each chapter and offered their criticisms and advice.

There is balance and unity in this book, and the over-all impression given of the purpose, the scope, and the methods of social work is a pretty accurate one. Obviously, a general survey of a technical field such as social work cannot be a scientific treatise. However, the excerpts from actual case records, reports, and recorded observations are well selected and reveal an understanding and awareness of the scientific basis of social work and some of its philosophical concepts.

A number of telltale expressions and phrases are noted, nevertheless, which do convey unfortunate impressions—some of them fairly fundamental in nature. For example, in Chapter V, "Children in Foster Homes," the following statement appears: "a currently popular method of caring for children is foster home placement." Foster home care has been an integral part of the