

analysis of the German youth movement from the *Wandervoegel* (Roamers) of Kaiser William II's time to the Hitler Jugend. It is a remarkably fine piece of work, and a most important guide for anyone who wishes to understand how the Germans got that way. Dr. Becker traces the "dear dead days" of the *Biedermeier*, when life in rural Germany was ideal; the revolt of German youth at the turn of the century against the "bourgeois" virtues of their rapidly industrialized country; the sectarian splits of the Roamers; the confused post-World War I era when German youth dissolved into bitterly feuding sections; and the final turn to the most radical and violent of German leaders—Adolf Hitler. Throughout, Dr. Becker stresses the strange German conception of the leader's "charisma," a combination of manliness, recklessness, and intellectualism which attracted the Roamers with a kind of Pied Piper magic.

Dr. Becker uses a somewhat unorthodox conglomeration of writing techniques—impressionistic fiction ("the *illusion* of fiction, but sober truth"), re-created conversation, sociological analysis, straight historical narrative, and highly personalized footnotes. Although insisting that "I am not indulging in sociological discourse," he now and then drops into sociological doubletalk: "Confronted by mediocre *charisma* of office devoid of personal *charisma*, on the one hand, and *charisma* of office infused with personal *charisma* on the other, it was . . . etc." The finicky reader may be a bit disturbed by the author's tendency to introduce paragraphs with such staccato stop-and-go signs as: "Enough:" . . . "Proviso:" . . . "Outcome:" . . . "Tantamount:" . . . "Specimen:" Others will be more intrigued by the vivid footnotes: "For better or worse, this is the voice of Howard Becker warbling his native woodnotes wild." More serious readers will object to the contention that hard-peace advocates are "Nazis in reverse." A good many Americans definitely want a demilitarized, a denazified, and especially a deindustrialized Germany, which does not necessarily mean that they "assert the total and utter depravity of everyone between the Rhine and the Oder."

But these are minor faults and really do not detract from the value of a keen, stimulating, admirable analysis of a serious problem. Our occupation authorities, who, to put it bluntly, have made a mess of German re-education, should have called such men as Professor Becker to Germany to organize and supervise the process, instead of leaving this crucial matter to educators who speak no German and to well-meaning but ineffective GI's whose bait consists of chewing gum, jive talk, baseball, and Kilroy's charm.

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JOHNS, RAY. *The Co-operative Process Among National Social Agencies*. Pp. xii, 290. New York: Association Press, 1946. \$3.00.

In this book the author presents the interagency experience of seventeen national social agencies; examines critically the experience of the United Service Organizations; analyzes the determining forces, the "issues," and the "dilemmas" of collaboration; seeks to arrive at principles of effective co-operation; and outlines desirable next steps.

Mr. Johns' experience in positions of leadership in the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. and in the U.S.O. gives him unusually good equipment for his task, particularly in relation to agencies concerned with group work, education, and informal education. His approach is scientific, scholarly, and objective; he strikes a balance between the interest of the sociologist in social institutions and the concern of the administrator for practical answers to pressing problems. The material is well organized and well documented, and is written in clear, readable, and untechnical style. There are a few lapses in editing or proofreading (as on pages vi, 24, 113, 229, and 271). The bibliography is excellent.

The historical chapters are valuable additions to the scanty literature of general historical interpretation in respect to social work. Selection is always a major problem in writing history, but it seems a little surprising to find no mention of the National Council on Rehabilitation, the former National Council for the Physically Handi-

capped, or the Advisory Committee on Training and Personnel of the Children's Bureau and Bureau of Public Assistance of the former Social Security Board.

In the main, Mr. Johns' conclusions seem to be well supported by his evidence. The question of possible mergers of national agencies seems to be disposed of rather casually.

Much of the author's material transcends his immediate subject in its implication. The discussion of the issues and dilemmas, and particularly of the methods of co-operation, is applicable, to a large degree, to co-operation among organizations operating on any geographical level.

Without any departure from its even and balanced tone, the book rises to a climax of interest in its final chapters. The last two chapters are definitely "worth the price of admission"; they ought to be read by every social work executive and by many board and staff members. Here the author's thinking and writing are creative, imaginative, and exciting. His "underlying principles" are well thought out and are not merely obvious truisms; his brief section on leadership is a definite contribution to thinking on that subject; his suggestions for the future show both insight and vision.

Particularly suggestive are his four suggestions as to specific developments: (1) "a plan for nation-wide financing, perhaps a national welfare fund"; (2) a strong, national interagency body of social welfare agencies [the National Social Welfare Assembly may, one hopes, be the answer to this need]; (3) a more co-ordinated field service; and (4) new types of local interagency service units. One may expect shouts of outraged protest from some of those brought up in orthodox agency traditions at the heresy of "a general social welfare service unit . . . in some communities, providing for case work services for families, varied leisure time services for both sexes, and all age groups, and possibly health or health educational services, if they are not already available under other auspices" (p. 246).

Altogether, Ray Johns has made an important and valuable professional con-

tribution to social work with this volume; and one hopes that his fellow workers may look to him in the future for further significant contributions to the literature of social welfare.

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HAYES, WAYLAND J. *The Small Community Looks Ahead*. Pp. xii, 276. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1947. \$3.00.

The aim of this book is to present a picture of the natural growth of communities as a background for community development and planning. The author begins by discussing the problems of the small community and its place in the scheme of modern life. He is interested especially in the integration of the community in the various stages of its maturity as measured by the extent of co-operation or conflict operating in it. He uses case histories to represent various types of community life, and discusses the structure and functions of the small community, its evolution, its life and leadership.

He is interested in two devices for community improvement: the workshop and extension service. To show what can be done through the planning process, he describes community developments in the Tennessee Valley. He believes that the university has a definite obligation in the development of a small community, especially through extension programs.

The small community, which is defined as one "which may be comprehended by a large proportion of its people through direct experience" (p. 9), the author believes has a definite place in modern life. It cannot be the old community of isolation. This inevitably is to be broken by conditions of modern life; in fact is already far advanced. "The basic question is whether this process shall be aimless and uncontrolled, or directed toward the utilization of powers, resident in these communities, for more adequately satisfying the needs and desires of men" (p. 205). He feels that the future of the small community will be determined largely by agencies ex-