

more than call attention to the work done. If the student recognizes the fact that the first ten chapters of this book are meant to call attention to comparable studies, he will find it most useful. In view of the very extensive development on techniques of social research the question arises as to the value of the chapters on "Technique of Surveying," "Survey of the Elderly," and the chapters dealing with particular items such as "Subnormal Standard of Living and Nutrition." Likewise, most sociologists would agree with the author's statement in Chapter II regarding the standard of living, but would disagree with the point of view in Chapter XII, that the definition of living was "measured by *actual expenditures on the essentials of life.*" The unattractive form in which the book is assembled, as for example the use of different qualities and colors of paper, detracts from its appearance.

Social Surveys has been written in a simple, easily readable manner, which should cause little difficulty for persons who have not previously studied the subject. Its purpose seems to be to create an interest in the field. There is no question that the volume will meet this need and it thus becomes a real contribution to the subject. It is apparently written for a limited British clientele, but one wonders whether that limited reading public would not have been served better if some of the excellent examples from other parts of the world had been mentioned.

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UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.
The Chicago-Cook County Health Survey. Pp. xlvii, 1317. New York: Columbia University Press, 1949. \$15.00.

This survey conducted by the United States Public Health Service and sponsored as a co-operative community enterprise is truly monumental both in scope and execution. It consists of 52 chapters, most of them dealing each with a single public health problem, and grouped under three major headings: Environmental Sanitation, Preventive Medicine, and Facilities and Services for Medical Care. The manner of presentation is uniform: first, a survey

of the problem in the area, with a presentation of summary data and illustrations; second, an appraisal of the local scene, using recognized standards whenever such are available; and, third, a series of recommendations growing out of this appraisal.

The survey demonstrates effectively how complex are the problems of public health in a large metropolitan area. Not only are there the purely technical aspects of public health administration in all its phases, but there are also multitudinous problems of law, economics, government, education, and community organization. This publication will serve as an important reference not only in schools of public health, but in courses in social legislation, urban government, sociology, economics, public administration, community organization, and many others.

The technical competency and objectivity of the survey staff, consisting of 54 professional members and numerous technical committees, will not be questioned by the general reader. However, the 711 recommendations which represent both expert advice and, according to Dr. Parran, "an understanding reception" by the community touch on many controversial issues involving broad differences of opinion on social objectives. Some of these, for example those involving expanding governmental controls, official cognizance by official and voluntary health agencies of the benefits of planned parenthood, the psychiatric orientation of all social workers, and the extension by organized medicine of prepaid medical care plans as the sole recommendation for extending medical care by physicians, will not be accorded "an understanding reception" by all readers.

There is some overlapping among the various recommendations and probable conflict in a few cases. In many instances, there are broad, sweeping recommendations which will require considerable elaboration before they can be made effective. In other cases, they are minute and specific. There is a real need for some one organization, possibly the Council of Social Agencies, to collect and reorganize the recommendations under topical headings, eliminating overlapping and reconciling conflicts,

and indicating priorities for social action. Such a study might be published separately, as was the *Pittsburgh Social Study of 1935*, which was similar in size and in many of the methods of execution to this survey.

As is to be expected with many authors, there is considerable variation in method of presentation. The articles in the first part are technically written, concise and to the point. Some of the articles in the second and third parts are more general and verbose. A good deal of this may be traced to differences in the advancement of scientific knowledge in the various fields of public health. All in all, this survey will rank with the half dozen great contributions to the field of survey literature.

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MEERLOO, JOOST A. M. *Patterns of Panic*. Pp. 120. New York: International Universities Press, 1950. \$2.00.

Near the end of this little book (pp. 113-114), Meerloo, psychiatrist at Columbia University, quotes the formulations of an Inter-Allied Psychological Study of which he was a member. Here are a few selected sentences: "A psychological approach means that we give attention to hidden motives behind the spoken or printed ones." "Psychologists can teach a more *individual approach* in relation to urgent problems of men." "Psychologists can influence the *methods of investigation* of actual problems in the world." "*Repeat your simple psychological standpoint*, even when it may be boring to somebody else." These sentences betray, when extended by similar comments on almost every page, the unstated assumptions which animate this whole book.

What are these unstated assumptions? They are: (1) The general theory of Freud's *Totem and Taboo* can be applied to all social phenomena. (2) Social phenomena are to be understood only in terms of analyses of individuals. (3) The scientific method in human affairs consists of giving psychoanalytic names to everyday events. (4) People emotionally resist this interpretation, so it has to be repeated obstinately until they accept it.

The social scientist is weary of pointing

out to the psychoanalytic cultists the following: (1) The anthropology on which *Totem and Taboo* was based was rejected by anthropologists, lock, stock and barrel, at least a quarter of a century ago. (2) Social phenomena have to be studied *as* social phenomena, in terms of social interaction and group relationships. Any secondary study of the individual as a means of throwing light on the social ought to take cognizance of the primacy of the social viewpoint in studying social phenomena. (3) The scientific method cannot consist of explaining-by-naming in the study of human affairs any more than it can in any other realm. (4) The resistance to the "psychoanalyzing" of social phenomena has absolutely nothing in common with the resistance of the patient on the couch.

This little book purports to be a handbook for psychologists, doctors, military strategists, social workers, and the like who may have occasion to deal with panic situations. One hundred and four pages, however, are devoted to an *analysis* of panic. There is, I believe, not one single, scientifically validated generalization about panic in the book. The generalizations that are given, though they have the ring of exceptionless laws, are at best merely interesting hunches; at worst they are survivals from the time when we all believed in simple unilineal social evolution.

The last twelve pages are devoted to answering the question "How to Overcome Panic?" This is what the whole book purported to do. There is, with the exception of four or five paragraphs, nothing in this section that has any basic relationship to the analysis that precedes it. It consists of interesting rule-of-thumb guides to the control and prevention of panic.

It is interesting to note that Sigmund Freud, to whom Meerloo's analysis owes so much, is not given a single citation in the bibliography; Kimball Young is cited as Young Kimball; and Meerloo himself gets more than a sixth of the citations!

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HEBB, D. O. *Organization of Behavior: A Neuropsychological Theory*. Pp. xix,