

practical contribution in the daily fight against the disease.

The report is so well done on a state-wide level that it is to be hoped something similar might be done, with deaths corrected this time for residence and with information for Negroes separate from that for other non-whites, for the larger cities of the United States where tuberculosis prevails at much higher rates.

GODIAS J. DROLET

Mass Radiography of the Chest—

By Herman E. Hilleboe, M.D., and Russell H. Morgan, M.D. Chicago: Year Book Publishers, 1945. 288 pp. Price, \$3.50.

The development of equipment for the x-ray examination of large groups of individuals at a reasonable cost has provided public health workers and phthisiologists with the most practical means for the early diagnosis of tuberculosis since the original discovery of the x-ray. Although photofluorography of the chest has been practicable only a few years, the numbers of individuals x-rayed with this method has already reached into the millions, with every indication that when the production of this type of equipment for civilian use is resumed, even larger numbers will be reached.

This small volume covers all phases of mass x-ray surveys, from the preliminary planning, through the detailed routine to be followed during the actual survey, to the study and care of the persons found to have x-ray evidence of pulmonary disease. All types of equipment are discussed, including 35 mm, 70 mm, and 4 x 5 in. x-ray films as well as 14 x 17 in. sensitized paper. In the consideration of the relative merits of each of these media, the authors avoid the error too often made in the literature of over-enthusiasm regarding the relative accuracy of the small films. They recognize that these films have a

definite margin of error, particularly in the diagnosis of minimal tuberculous lesions, but point out that in spite of this, photofluorography is unexcelled in the x-ray examination of large numbers of individuals at low cost.

A large part of the book is devoted to a very lucid, somewhat detailed description of the various types of equipment and the factors involved in their choice and operation. The roentgen diagnosis of diseases of the chest is considered, with 48 full-page reproductions of x-ray films to illustrate some of the types of pulmonary pathology found.

The subject matter is presented clearly and the book should serve as an excellent reference work for public health workers interested in mass chest x-ray surveys, particularly for those with some technical training or interest.

ROBERT E. PLUNKETT

Microbial Antagonisms and Antibiotic Substances—*By Selman A. Waksman. New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 1945. 350 pp. Price, \$3.75.*

The rapidly expanding literature on antibiotics has been greatly in need of an enlarged review to enable those not specializing in the field to keep abreast of the developments. The need is well met by this book. The author has made a very complete coverage of the literature and accumulated a bibliography of 1,016 references. His point of view, that of a soil microbiologist, is made quite apparent in the early chapters, where the fundamental background material of the subject is given. While it would be desirable for everyone concerned with the subject to be familiar with the material in this book, it is written for the research worker. The section dealing with the interests of the public health worker is a relatively small part. The author discusses the possibilities of further developments in the field.