

reader. He who may wish more details or who challenges some of the views expressed will be well aided by excellent bibliographies at the end of each chapter.

The text is precise and factual, the language not too technical for the intelligent nonprofessional reader. Yet, the warmth and enthusiasm of the authors come through and give it that personal touch so commonly lacking in many professional books.

The career health worker needs this book as a desk reference and as a "refresher." It will find a wide field among students of community health and of civics generally. And it may profitably be recommended to the growing number of citizens who are coming to realize that "community health betterment is . . . not something superimposed from above, but something developed by citizens of the local community in answer to a definitely recognized need."

Well chosen illustrations, excellent typography, and a good index add to the book's value.

H. E. KLEINSCHMIDT

The National Plumbing Code—Illustrated—By *Vincent T. Manas*. Washington, D. C.: *Manas Publications*, 1952. 188 pp. Price, \$3.00.

The recent profusion of plumbing codes, with their varying and sometimes contradictory provisions, have been a source of needless expense and confusion to regulatory officials, the practicing plumber, and the public. The first effort to break this administrative block was the preparation of the American Standard Plumbing Code under the sponsorship of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Public Health Association. This code, although widely accepted in many parts of the country, has not been fully

adopted in areas where special regional codes have been in use.

Another effort to eliminate the costly luxury of many codes was the formation of a Coordinating Committee for a National Plumbing Code, composed of representatives from all organizations involved either in regulatory activities or in application by practicing plumbers. The committee has prepared the National Plumbing Code which apparently is acceptable to all groups and is under consideration now for adoption as a new American Standard Plumbing Code.

The National Plumbing Code—Illustrated gives interpretation to the various paragraphs of the new Code in those cases where differences of opinion might exist. Paragraphs from the Code are quoted, significance of and suitable interpretation of Code requirements are given and illustrations, either by actual photographs or line drawings are submitted to illustrate the discussion. The same paragraph numbering as used in the Code is used in the *Illustrated* discussion in designating paragraphs.

The author has been intimately involved in plumbing code preparation for many years. He has been secretary and the spark plug of the Coordinating Committee and so has had the advantage of opinions expressed by all members of the committee. Although the discussions reflect the viewpoints of Mr. Manas in some instances, viewpoints that some other authorities may not accept fully, the fact remains that no one is better qualified to prepare such a volume as this. It should be of great benefit to the regulatory official, whether or not the National Plumbing Code is used, since it illustrates good plumbing practice. Also, it should prove valuable to the practicing plumber and provide good guidance to those home tinkerers who like to do their own repair and alteration work.

FRANCIS B. ELDER