staff. For the health educator it will be a stimulating source of reference and of inspiration.

CHARLES E. SHEPARD


This is a compilation of material on national health insurance. There is a fairly good selection of pro and con opinions with scrupulous adherence to the principle of giving both sides equal space. The title of the volume is most unfortunate since the point at issue is not "free medical care" but prepaid medical care. This confusion is evident in the volume itself and reflects the popular misunderstanding engendered by the use of emotionally charged words like "socialized medicine."

While the book is of little value to the serious student of medical care problems, it may be useful as an introduction to the subject. Its greatest use will be the one for which it is evidently intended, as a convenient reference and debating manual.

MILTON TERRIS


Water bacteriologists welcome the revision of this reference book, which for forty years has been a necessary part of the equipment of the water laboratory. During the fifteen years since the appearance of the previous edition important advances have been made in bacteriologic procedures in sanitary water analysis. While Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Sewage gives the laboratory techniques, it is necessary to interpret the results, and this volume gives the basis for the interpretations.

The revision has been made by the junior author with commendable results. The entire book has been rewritten. The most notable changes are those in connection with the coliform organisms. These chapters are excellently written and all-inclusive. Although some of the methods described are only of local significance, they are and should be included in an adequate discussion.

At first the reviewer wondered at the continued inclusion of tabulated data carried over from earlier editions, but more careful study convinced him that these tables are not only just as good illustrative material as when first published, but also that many of them have never been duplicated. Where new material is available, it has been substituted.

The water bacteriologist and the sanitary engineer again have available an authoritative treatise.

JOHN F. NORTON

A SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH ANNOTATIONS

RAYMOND S. PATTERSON, PH.D.

Hygiene and Sanitation in Company Towns—Have you wondered why so little is written about those radical departures from industrial practice, the miners' welfare and medical care funds? Well, here are some illuminating papers you can't afford to miss if you have any interest whatever over and above your own two-by-four job. Incidentally, you'll get some inkling of the reasons the discussion may have been soft-pedalled.

This Will Leave You Chastened—Mental hygiene seems to be on every health worker's tongue these days. Before you go off the deep end, too, you might read this discussion of psychoneuroses, psychoses, and psychopathic personalities, just to see how shallow you'll find the water when you dive in. Does a psychoneurosis ever develop into a psychosis? This is only one of a dozen unanswered questions you'll find here.

Bowman, K. M. Modern Concept of the Neuroses. J.A.M.A. 132, 10:555 (Nov. 9), 1946.

Where Cruelty Was a Fine Art—"The fruits of experience as prisoners of war in Japanese hands, though abundant, were exceedingly bitter." So begins a stomach-turning account of conditions in Java and Siam prisoners' hospitals. This paper would make salutary reading for those in danger of becoming maudlin over the news accounts of the little people's idolatry of McArthur.


Good News about Mumps—Pathogenicity of mumps virus decreases on continued passage in the egg, but the antigenicity appears to be maintained—for monkeys, and possibly, for man.


Trends of Sickness Absenteeism—Sickness and non-industrial accident rates (lasting 8 days or longer) have risen regularly, culminating—in 1945—in male and female rates that have not been equalled. Because of notable increases in nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases, the frequencies of rheumatic, nervous, circulatory and genitourinary diseases are shown for each sex. There's a lot more.


Not a Substitute for Proved Treatment—More good—though guarded—news about streptomycin and tuberculosis. It suppresses rather than eradicates TB, but results are encouraging. Large doses are required over a 2 to 4 month period, so treatment should not be started unless a sufficient supply is in sight, and patients who are doing all right without it shouldn't get it.


Fluorine Applied to Children's Teeth—During the third year of this study, the permanent teeth attacked were 22 per cent less for the treated than the untreated. This difference is substantially less than for the first two years of this Minnesota research.


A Plan for Minneapolis—As with most problems, the nearer tuberculosis control comes to being established on a scientific basis, the more clear-cut become the differences of expert opinion. Here you will find a forcefully expressed viewpoint at variance with other workers in the field. It will do you good to read this paper with an open mind, whether or not you are immediately concerned with tuberculosis.

Good Advice for the Deafened—
If you want a hearing aid consult an otologist first, try a number of makes at a Hearing Aid Clinic, try the aid in both quiet and noisy places, buy the instrument you like best, and use it full time, know when to turn it in for a new model.


Not To Be Missed—For the good of his own soul, everyone in public health should read this caustic dissertation on respiratory infections—colds, sore throats, grip, virus pneumonias, and the influenzas. Essentially the discussion boils down to this: nothing we teach others to use or use ourselves does good in curing virus infections; advertised cold cures are not worth the powder to blow them you-know-where; and (aside from teaching people the worthlessness of most of the so-called treatments they have come to believe are good for them) there is precious little to be done at present about viral infections, except to go to bed. Influenza A and B are, of course, other matters.


Profound Words Department—
"Until recently what men thought about cancer depended on how ingenious they were, they had not enough facts to constrain them. It has taken decades to trace the natural history of the disease and to uncover the complexities of its occurrence, but now it looms in sharp outline... This is well, for the problem has turned out to be larger than anyone knew."

Rous, P. Concerning the Cancer Problem. Am. Scientist 34, 4:329 (July), 1946.

It Works on American Rabbits, Too—Antireticular cytotoxic serum was prepared according to the technics evolved by the Russian researchers and its effects were tested upon experimentally produced fractures in rabbits. Much to your surprise, the stuff really did stimulate the healing process.


Respect for the Individual—
"It is the increasing practice today among pediatricians who are mindful of all the developmental needs of infants to instruct mothers to nurse their own babies and to nurse them when they are hungry." That seems to be enough to tell you about this paper.


Health Education and Medical Care Needed—Though Negro maternal mortality rates have been nearly halved in the last two decades, they are still two and a half times the death rate of white mothers. Why? Is it a matter of biologic inheritance, some essentially different obstetrical problem, or contrasting situations of economic and social heritage? You'll find answers here.