

Books in Our Alcove

"There's a Screw Loose Somewhere"

LOCKSTEP AND CORRIDOR. *An Autobiography by Charles L. Clark, Convict No. 5126, Illinois State Penitentiary. University of Cincinnati Press. Illustrated. Price \$2.50 postpaid of The Survey.*

This is the unique book review—the autobiography of a convict reviewed by an ex-convict. Jack Black who contributed his own views on criminals in his memoirs of a yeggman—You Can't Win—last fall (see The Survey for December 1, 1926) now appraises the conclusions of Convict No. 5126, Illinois State Penitentiary. We have here expert testimony on the life of criminals. Jack Black spent thirty years of his life in and out of jail. Then Fremont Older helped him get straight, and he has been librarian of the San Francisco Call. Just now he is at Culver City, California, doing a prison play in the movies for the Metro-Goldwyn Company. Judge Charles W. Hoffman, of the Court of Domestic Relations at Cincinnati, says of Lockstep and Corridor: "The real merit of this book is that it affords the material for the study of the actuating motives and factors in the life history of a veteran, professional criminal, the conventional offender against society, working from his earliest days along the lines of standardized methods of crime. . . . It stands unique in the literature of crime."

LOMBROSO spent years and years trying to prove, in terms of biology, that there is a "criminal type," "half lunatic, half savage." If Lombroso did any good it was buried with his bones. Charles L. Clark, prowler and stick-up, now finishing his eighth felony sentence, steals a few transient hours from the corroding cares of Joliet prison and writes his most interesting autobiography. Clark doesn't try to prove anything. He sets forth a plain unvarnished tale of his doings—and undoings, and is content to say at the end, of himself and his sidekickers, "There's a screw loose somewhere." Lombroso's conclusions have been exploded. Clark's conclusions will never be exploded, for there is a screw loose somewhere. Well then, who's got the screw driver?

It would appear, from current press reports, that the Hon. Caleb Baumes of New York has it. Our California State Legislature probably borrowed it, for they have passed "fifty pieces of legislation" tending to the suppression of crime. Yet, a week after the bills were signed by the governor, we have the same old "Saturday special" bank stick-up at Los Angeles. No doubt the stick-ups were preparing to run away from California because of the new drastic laws and had to have "running expenses." Anyway, before you swallow the Baumes law and other "just as good" substitutes you'd better put your nose between the pages of Lock-



THE CONNOISSEUR

From a woodcut for the magazine Book Notes by Anton Lock

step and Corridor. A careful reading of its lines and what's between its lines will give you pause, and you may conclude there's a screw loose in other quarters. And here's something from Governor Clifford Walker of Georgia about the Baumes law, under press date of May 15:

The extreme crime wave reformers would abolish parole, probation and the indeterminate sentence, increase the severity and length of punishment, and frighten human nature into submission.

A harshly mechanical system of penalties strengthens the sentimentalists' plea for clemency and encourages the unscrupulous lawyer to acquit his client by unethical means. . . . One state adopts a penalty of death for hold-up with a weapon not appreciating the necessity it puts upon the bandit to kill his victims and thus prevent them from pursuing and identifying their assailant.

It hardly seems necessary to prove that crime cannot be prevented by fear of punishment or by harsh, cruel and inhuman treatment. Such methods have been given a fair trial. . . . There is no short-cut to the transformation of a delinquent. It must be attained by the long road of scientific improvement of our penal system.

Listen to this—from George Bernard Shaw—under same date—May 15:

To punish these people [criminals] satisfies our vindictive instincts. We hurt them for the satisfaction of hurting them, not that two blacks make a white, but that we think one good black deserves another. The punishment costs money and harms both us and its victims. . . . We have the grace to be ashamed of this and invent excuses or nice names for it. We use the word "retributive" instead of "vindictive" and we pretend that our ferocity deters people from crime.

It is true that cruelty would be a deterrent, if it could be made the inevitable consequence of crime. . . . It is surprising how a small penalty will deter if it is certain. But criminologists have long since had to admit that as certainty cannot be secured, punishment, though useful as an excuse for vindictiveness, is, as a preventive of crime, a dud.

This is highbrow lingo that I've quoted, but it rings true to me. Now, turn to Lockstep and Corridor and you get the same thing—dramatized—in lowbrow lingo—plain, blunt, one-syllable words. More, this book is a prime cut from life in the underworld—true to its last word, and I want to recommend it to that half who don't know how the other half lives; and to sociologists and investigators and crime commissions; to judges, jurors, prosecutors and policemen. You are all there, right in the book, gentlemen, just as you are, some crooked, some square. If you don't recognize yourself you will at least recognize some one you know.

What an array of characters line up for you—crooked and honest thieves, crooked and honest "fences," crooked and honest lawyers. The trusty convict—who could have run away any day but wouldn't throw down the warden who gave him a good job—sawing his way out of prison at night and "beating it on the square." "Jim Welch," the only prisoner who could keep the knitting machines in order—consider that: only one machinist in a big penitentiary. That proves what Clarence Darrow says: "They [the convicts] were not scholars. They had no trades. They had not been carefully trained for the job of living. If what is so tritely called crime shall ever disappear the change must come through the education of the youth to some calling or trade that will give him a chance to live as others live. With this training probably most crime would disappear."

If you want to know about the big machine that's geared—and guaranteed to grind out criminals read this book. Brother Clark doesn't preach or pray—just states facts, and he's a good loser, too.

There is a good, solid foreword by Judge Charles W. Hoffman of Cincinnati, and a most complete criminological summing up of the subject by Earle Edward Eubank, distinguished head of the Department of Sociology of the University of Cincinnati.

JACK BLACK

In Gangland

THE GANG: A STUDY OF 1,313 GANGS IN CHICAGO. *Frederic M. Thrasher. University of Chicago Press. 571 pp. Price \$3.00 postpaid of The Survey.*

HOW appropriate in these days of crime waves and beer running that Chicago should give the world a book on the gang! One opens the book with visions of flivver squads, machine guns and jail breaks but before turning many pages finds himself in the empire of the gang, wondering why so much mystery has been draped about the subject. The gang turns out to be an ordinary spontaneous play group that begins with mischief and sometimes ends conspicuously with organized crime and bad politics. Gangland is an interstitial area, a slum between areas of respectability and decay, where misconduct is high and social life low. Nobody is to blame and no single remedy applied locally will cure. Force only aggravates the problem. It is a problem involving the whole city. There is here quest for romance and adventure but no less natural than human behavior anywhere. Thrasher nails the boast of the Boy Scouts that their boys are never numbered among the gangsters. His answer is simple: the B. S. A. does not invade the realm of the gangster. B. S. A. volunteers will not go there.

Can a college professor who has never been a gangster write on this subject? The book seems to answer in the affirmative though it should be added that it was not writ-

ten out of the experience and study of Thrasher alone. A hundred cooks stewed the broth and the findings were checked against the observations and experience of gangsters, policemen, politicians, newspapermen. After the fashion of sociological research in Chicago where scores of studies are carried on and the findings pooled, this book emerged, as it were from the council table. Much credit is due to Robert E. Park who wrote the editor's preface, for the journalistic arrangement of the material.

The sub-title implies that the author discovered 1,313 gangs in Chicago. No one can know that many gangs and keep his data straight. The press made much of this number, to Thrasher's hurt. He does not say there were that many criminal gangs as implied nor does he say he knew them all. He got the number through a questionnaire survey and perhaps used it to satisfy statistical hounds who recognize nothing as true unless it is counted. The second objection will come from the practical folks. Thrasher is safe in a classroom in Andy Gump's home town, Bloomington, Illinois. He does not feel the press of the question from the probation officers and others who want to know how to meet the problem. He has one chapter on Attacking the Problem which is not complete. He really helps us to see the gangster as a human being. We need another book to tell us what to do about it.

Whittier House,
Jersey City

NELS ANDERSON

The Community Educates Adults

ADULT EDUCATION, by Joseph K. Hart, New York. Thomas Y. Crowell Co. 341 pp. Price \$2.75 postpaid of The Survey.

AMONG the flood of books written under the newest name for progressive attitudes toward education is this significant treatise. Adult education for Hart is a matter of the whole complex of social institutions, rather than merely another abstract and intellectual performance. Following Dewey, he finds experience of the individual the educative force and disparages the Thorndike method of inculcating in unsuspecting youth habits that the teacher or a smug community regard as ideal, but leaving the student little or no opportunity to learn how to develop habits for ends of which he himself may be conscious. A scathing criticism of public schools as routine, uninspiring, unprogressive, where few children ever become intelligent in the subjects taught, is followed by a sympathetic criticism of the "new" schools in which the suggestion is made that they might emphasize more the matter that older institutions overemphasize, namely, the necessity in the later life of the student of fitting into an established order.

The more significant ventures in adult education are mentioned and wholesome skepticism expressed on the value of specific measures to complete training left incomplete by the usual provision; since the whole educational system is at fault and since particularly, education in the best sense never is complete. It is wisely argued that to remove the provincial-mindedness of adult America, its animistic prejudices and obsolete customs, will take a long time; and, while it is the job of adult education, techniques in it are a matter of the future. The mind of the age is unequal to modern problems because the mental outlook of men has dragged far in the rear of social changes of profound significance: the coming of the steam engine and with it the upsetting of the social and moral equilibrium of society; the gross exaggeration of the importance of the economic, giving the directors

of industrial life power they have never been fit to exercise; the urban drift and the centralization tendencies that took away many of the communal educative experiences of the individual and left the community with the false notion that formal schooling had been the one great teaching force. Education, too, has lagged behind social changes, teaching for the most part conservative doctrines consistent with an existing political and social system.

Adult education of the nature of vital, interesting practical and social experience is of fundamental import to democracy. The community educates. Schooling to be educative in the social sense that Hart holds to, must participate in the problems of the community, not so much that is, as the community that is becoming. Hart holds that education is a matter of the whole, not merely a part of one's life, chronologically and socially. It is a product of experience, not a series of stunts performed by ideas unconnected with emotions or things floating around in an academic atmosphere like disembodied spirits at a seance. Finally it will be part of, and the greatest factor in, social democracy if we ever dare try such a thing in the United States.

LEROY E. BOWMAN

Columbia University

Getting Facts on Unemployment

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED STATES: A PLAN FOR THEIR NATIONAL COLLECTION and A HANDBOOK OF METHODS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT LABOR STATISTICS OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION, edited by Ralph G. Hurlin, director Department of Statistics, Russell Sage Foundation, and William A. Berridge, associate professor of economics, Brown University. Published by the Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1926. 215 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of *The Survey*.

THE importance of this book in the development of social statistics is established by its purpose and the auspices under which it appears. The work had its genesis in the unemployment situation of 1921. Though it was generally appreciated at that time that the problem was acute, the discussion of measures of relief or prevention was hampered because no one knew within a reasonable margin of error what the actual extent of unemployment was. Estimates made by responsible experts ranged from three and a half million to five and a half million.

In connection with President Harding's Conference on Unemployment, in Washington in September, 1921, efforts were made to harmonize these divergent estimates. The consequent analysis of the defects in existing employment statistics and in the methods by which they were compiled led to the appointment of a Committee on Measurement of Employment (later called the Committee on Governmental Labor Statistics) of the American Statistical Association. The Committee, with Mary Van Kleeck as chairman, included persons with practical experience in compiling or using employment statistics. It secured the attendance of experts at its meetings, and enlisted suggestions and criticisms from others.

This book on their deliberations, is the result of the joint thinking of experts. It amounts to a plan for the collection of employment statistics on a nation-wide basis in such manner that they will be made available periodically, promptly and intelligibly.

Part I gives the recommendations in general, with an explanation of the plan and an excellent summary of the history and present status of employment statistics in the United States. This section, with its full description of the sources and character of the data, will prove especially

serviceable to students who desire to orient themselves in the whole field. A chapter on the uses of employment statistics points out the double significance of the facts in that they provide a guide for programs of relief, and essential information toward the control of industrial policies so as to lessen the economic waste of irregular employment and in particular to stabilize cyclical fluctuations.

Part II deals in detail with the methods for the collection and tabulation of employment data, the computation of index numbers of employment for earnings, and the publication of the results. Authoritative answers are given to such questions as, From what sources should employment statistics be secured? At what intervals and at what dates? From how many firms must data be secured in order to secure an adequate and representative sample? How may data be secured for industries other than manufacturing? In tabulating, how shall industries be classified? In forming index numbers, how shall relative weights be determined? An appendix gives copies of the forms which are in use in the collection and compiling of employment statistics.

The book will be an indispensable handbook for all who are officially engaged in building up our employment statistics. Social scientists will value it not only for its summarizing of the existing data but also for its emphasis on an often neglected stage of statistical research, i. e., the compiling of adequate and reliable raw data to constitute the foundation without which the most artistically contrived estimates or mathematically elaborated techniques are useless.

CLARA ELIOT

Barnard College

The "Antis" in Medicine

SOCIAL FACTORS IN MEDICAL PROGRESS, by Bernhard J. Stern. Columbia University Press. 136 pp. Price \$2.25 postpaid of *The Survey*.
SHOULD WE BE VACCINATED?: A Survey of the Controversy in Its Historical and Scientific Aspects, by Bernhard J. Stern. Harper. 146 pp. Price \$1.50 postpaid of *The Survey*.

MAN the thinker is the most teachable of all organisms. Like other teachable organisms, he lets his early acquisitions obstruct later attempts to put ideas into his head. He uses his thinking powers chiefly to invent reasons for not admitting, or even contemplating, new ideas. These general statements on the nature of man can be confirmed by extended observations upon any representative sample and in respect to any set of ideas.

Dr. Stern has selected for observation various groups found in western Europe and America during several centuries past, in their reactions to ideas in the broad field of "medical progress." The social factors that obstruct new ideas are psychological, cultural and mechanical. On analysis, the psychological factors are the tendency of the individual to identify himself too closely with his beliefs or doctrines, or what Dr. Stern calls the "psychological vested interest" in ideas; the fear of the unknown; the difficulty of reconditioning behavior patterns; the avoidance of pain or the unpleasant; and group and personal loyalties and conflicts. The tendency to rationalize, which Dr. Stern lists as a separate factor, operates apparently to justify all resistance to change regardless of the basic motive.

The cultural factors are economic vested interests; personal or institutional authority; ignorance (or prevailing assumptions, prejudices, etc.); the economic cost of replacing equipment or establishing new procedures; and the conflict of different phases of culture, as religion and science,

chemistry and surgery, and so on. The mechanical difficulties are the task of diffusing knowledge among those to be influenced, and of modifying institutional activities.

The thesis is supported by material taken from the conflicts in eight distinct episodes in the history of medicine: human dissection; circulation of the blood; percussion; vaccination; prevention of puerperal fever; germ theory of disease; antiseptics; asepsis. The material is well organized and thoroughly documented.

The reader cannot but be impressed by the failure of "education" to liberate men from those mechanisms that make the ignorant and untrained person such a ridiculous and pathetic object when confronted by new ideas. The study is important if it can make a considerable number of us reexamine the sources of our partisanship, whether it be in medical controversy or in political or economic fields. An optimist might also consider the possibility that such an analysis would influence educational practice, not only in medical schools but in general, but for the fact that education is for the most part conducted by adults.

The history of vaccination controversy is elaborated in greater detail in the second of these books, which should be of help to all who come in contact with this or other social maladies of the same class.

*American Association
for Medical Progress*

BENJAMIN C. GRUENBERG

RUN OF THE SHELVES

A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE NEW BOOKS

International Affairs

THE NEW BALKANS, by Hamilton Fish Armstrong, with an introduction by Archibald Cary Coolidge. Harper's. Price \$3 postpaid of *The Survey*.

THOSE who would know why the Italo-Albanian treaty precipitated a ministerial crisis in Yugoslavia; in what manner the dispute over Bessarabia is related to the Soviet-German treaty of 1926, or what the future of the Little Entente is likely to be, may turn with confidence for enlightenment to Mr. Armstrong's excellent book. The Balkans are still the cauldron of European politics. Treaties of every variety between western powers and Balkan states are now more numerous than ever before. Their general purpose of advancing foreign political and economic influence in southeastern Europe keeps alive "the eternal eastern question—the immediate cause of the world war," of which Professor Coolidge speaks in his introduction. The author believes that the solution of this question rests with the Balkan states themselves which "should steer clear alike from assuming commitments outside the Peninsula, and from allowing foreign interference in dealings with one another." As for the barriers between Balkan states, they will eventually fall "because they are manifestly inexpedient."

THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, by James Brown Scott. Oxford University Press. 175 pp. Price \$2.75 postpaid of *The Survey*.

THIS is a collection of documents prepared for the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by Dr. Scott. Added to the document and the revolutionary correspondence, are extracts from the writings of Jared Sparks. Dr. Scott has selected and arranged these materials and contributes the foreword.

THE CHINA YEAR BOOK, 1925, edited by H. G. W. Woodhead. The Tientsin Press Ltd. (Brentano's, N. Y.) Price \$15.00 postpaid of *The Survey*.

ALL available data, particularly on trade, finance, industrial enterprise, education, Chinese and foreign diplomatic service; summary of political events and military operations in China; Chinese Who's Who. Obviously indispensable to those whose interests are in any way associated with China.

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT IN CHINA, by Tsi C. Wang. New Republic Press. 245 pp. Price \$1.00 postpaid of *The Survey*.

MR. WANG'S review of the spiritual and social forces behind the uprising in China appears at an opportune moment and will help to explain somewhat the extraordinary dynamic force in and behind the Nationalist Army. But its interest is even wider, for the preparation of the book, under the general guidance of Professor Robert E. Park, has taken a number of years. Particularly interesting is Mr. Wang's comparison of the Chinese Renaissance movement with the youth movement in Germany. There are many similarities but also significant differences which he does not fail to bring out. Mr. Wang is now teaching at Ohio State University; and his sound methods and common-sense interpretation may be expected to produce even more important contributions to our knowledge of China and the Chinese in the future.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SOUTH AMERICA, by Annie S. Peck. Crowell. 489 pp. Price \$3.50 postpaid of *The Survey*. Revised edition.

Economics

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE BUSINESS CYCLE, by Dorothy S. Thomas. Dutton. 217 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of *The Survey*.

THIS book by Dr. Thomas is an ambitious effort to express social causation in mathematical terms. Dr. Thomas finds that over a period of 60 years the marriage rate, the birth rate and the consumption of alcohol rise with improvement in business conditions. Births do not respond, however, until the second or third year after good times have set in; that is, there is "lag" in the correlation. But in the consumption of alcohol the increase is notable at once and also after a year has elapsed. The correlation with prostitution is not so definite, being sometimes positive and sometimes negative. With a two-year lag, pauperism and the business cycle show a high negative correlation; when one goes up, the other comes down. Likewise there is high negative correlation with crimes against property with violence. It will surprise many to learn that there is little, if any, connection between the business cycle and either the general death rate or infant mortality. But the suicide rate shows an immediate and rapid rise in hard times; the correlation is high even for a lag of two years. It is an interesting fact, discussed by the author, that, while there is no correlation between English emigration and the English business cycle, there is high positive correlation between the American business cycle and English emigration. These correlations help to locate social factors of importance and make it possible to study them in greater detail as guides to social legislation and social work.

The author is thoroughly scientific in her attitude. But very few of Dr. Thomas's coefficients are as many as four times the size of the probable error. That does not altogether invalidate her work, but it raises questions and precludes a ready acceptance of the apparent extent of the causal relation of the business cycle and the various kinds of social data used.

R. CLYDE WHITE

Religion

THE INESCAPABLE CHRIST, by Walter Russell Bowie. Scribner's. 206 pp. Price \$1.50 postpaid of *The Survey*.

A PROMINENT CHURCHMAN speaking to a group of men who were to solicit men of great wealth for funds to complete a great Cathedral, said, "Tell them that religion is the insurance of their prosperity." Mr. Bowie does not look upon the Church as the defender of any status quo, but the one dominant factor in the transformation of the social order. What courts, officers, laws, treaties, leagues, etc., fail to accomplish the Church must do. Christ's message contains the leaven of a new world where the evils are removed. His order is a "new man" and then a "new order." With vividness of imagination, lucidity of statement, mental vigor, clarity of insight and courage Mr. Bowie sets forth the close connection between the teaching of Christ and the realization of a new social day. His book should have a wide reading.

Winfield, Kansas

HAL E. NORTON

Health

THE STUDENT WHO SMOKES, by J. Rosslyn Earp. The Antioch Press. 61 pp. Price \$1.00 postpaid of The Survey.

IN THIS study of the smoking habits among men students at Antioch College, the author strikes a happy medium between the frigid scientific monograph usually employed to summarize a serious piece of investigation, and the frills and fancies with which scientific fact is often dressed up for introduction to the general public. He writes directly and with good humor for that public, assuming that it is interested and intelligent enough to understand a simple explanation of the statistical method which lies back of his conclusions. According to Dr. Earp's careful researches, smoking was not found to produce any discernible harm to the body or to mental prowess as tested by the I. Q. In his experience, however, it was definitely associated with low scholarship. Inhaling, in particular, was found to correlate with low marks, as was heavy smoking.

Because of the small numbers (less than 500) persons on whom these conclusions are based, Dr. Earp has been at pains to calculate the probable error in each case and to point out the differences which probably are of no statistical significance. He suggests three possible explanations of the low marks: that smoking is likely to be characteristic of the gregarious students as opposed to the naturally scholarly ones; that smoking devitalizes ambition; or that some poison or poisons in the smoke acting upon the central nervous system produce a deterioration of nervous tissue leading directly to a lower mental output. Evidence to support (and to defy) each of these conclusions can be adduced; it is possible that all three have a part in the relation, which Dr. Earp believes causal, between the use of tobacco and low scholarship. M. R.

THE MEANING OF DISEASE, by William A. White. Williams & Wilkins. 204 pp. Price \$3.00 postpaid of The Survey.

DISEASE like health is a relative matter. To discover the cause of an illness it is essential to interpret the personality make-up of the patient in terms of "the soul" as well as the body. Any rigid concepts are impossible since life itself is never static. A diagnosis of the state of the patient must include insight into individual dynamics and energy concepts. When the harmonious outflow of energy needed to keep the personality functioning becomes blocked the body expresses the regression in terms of physical symptoms and manifestations of disease. To quote Dr. White, "Disease is only an expression of the relation between stress and strength of material." Therefore it is vital to deal with the subjective state of the individual and his relations to reality. His reactions to it are again reflected in concrete as well as abstract symbols, since not only his actions but the language he uses are means to analyse more clearly his symptoms. When the failure to adapt to reality becomes a losing game the destructive factors involve the emotions; thus continuous "going against the grain" results in sickness. In Dr. White's words, "disease is a failure of adaptations both to conditions without the organism and to conditions within." As an inquiry into the fundamentals of medical philosophy as well as an endeavor to break up old patterns of thought Dr. White's study stands forth as a challenge to the theory and practice of medicine.

HALLE SCHAFFNER

PEDIATRIC NURSING, by Gladys Sellew, R.N. Saunders. 450 pp. Price \$2.50 postpaid of The Survey.

MISS SELLEW'S detailed descriptions of all nursing procedures in the care of sick children will be a valuable book for both nurse and doctor. More than that it is an excellent reference book for mothers and others interested primarily in the care of well children. Especially good are the chapters on the hygiene and feeding of young children in which due attention is paid not only to the preparation of food, but to the methods of getting a child to eat. Throughout the attention

of the student nurse is constantly drawn to the need of knowing child psychology in the successful nursing of the well or sick child.

EDITH M. LINCOLN, M.D.

SHELL SHOCK AND ITS AFTERMATH, by Norman Fenton. C. V. Mosby Co. 173 pp. Price \$3.00 postpaid of The Survey.

SHELL SHOCK is associated in the lay mind with the battlefield. To the medical profession it is a neurosis induced by the horrors of war, but which may not be unrelated to the patient's previous experiences. To care for its shell shocked soldiers the United States government established Base Hospital 117 in La Fauche, France, staffed by medical officers trained in neuro-psychiatry. At this hospital the author, Doctor Fenton, had the opportunity of studying war neuroses at first hand. The first part of the book is taken up with a critical examination of the facts gathered regarding the patients in the hospitals. The victims of shell shock are studied in the light of their mental and physical make-up and their social and economic background. What happened to the shell shocked soldier when he returned home, how he was treated by his neighbors, how he was cared for by the government, and how he became adjusted to civil life, are discussed in the second half of the book. Dr. Salmon in the introduction says: "Doctor Fenton has shown a definite relationship existing between make-up, personal resources and access to treatment and complete rehabilitation that confirms a growing belief in the usefulness of adequate therapy and prophylaxis in psychopathic disorders."

RHEUMATISM, by Lewellys F. Barker and Norman B. Cole. Appleton. 166 pp. Price \$1.50 postpaid of The Survey.

HEALTH workers who are alarmed at the rising rate of death from heart disease will find here a discussion of one of the great causes of cardiac troubles. The authors explain in popular style what rheumatism is, why it is a menace, how to recognize it, and what physicians propose as remedies.

DIRECTORY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE BLIND. Compiled by Lotta S. Rand. American Foundation for the Blind. 347 pp. Price \$2.00 postpaid of The Survey.

THIS is a list of institutions and services for the blind by States and for Canada. Data on the institutions and their scope should prove useful to those who have to deal with the problem of blind or partially blind people.

POVERTY AND DEPENDENCY, by John Lewis Gillin (revised edition). Century. 836 pp. Price \$4.00 postpaid of The Survey.

Education

CREATIVE SCHOOL CONTROL, by Philip W. L. Cox. Lippincott. 314 pp. Price \$2.00 postpaid of The Survey.

HERE IS valuable matter on the theory and practice of the new education, based on the author's own concept and philosophy of the creative type of education plus the techniques that serve for stimulus and control. He emphasizes the importance of the school to give a cross section of life so that for the student it is but a step from participation in the world of the school to the world of the community. To unify the personality, to help it develop harmoniously in ways socially acceptable through a creative life should be the aim of education. "The school itself becomes the way and the light." It must form a cooperative unit of friendly contacts between parents, teachers, and students promoting vital activities that parallel community activities. The techniques and mechanisms for improved class procedures are explained, with an elaborate amount of material on the methods used in establishing creative control through clubs and societies, student publications and school organizations. The book is a detailed, scholarly attempt to treat school problems not as ends in themselves but as a means to make the Plastic Age serve as a training for that new world now in preparation. H. S.

THE SOCIAL WORK SHOP

Exchange Sick-leave for Vacation

By WENDELL F. JOHNSON

IN conformance to local practice the Social Service Federation of Toledo has granted only two weeks' vacation to members of its staff. In addition to this, each worker is allowed twelve days absence for sickness, each year, without loss of pay. This sick-leave is not cumulative from year to year, and is supposed to apply only in case of actual sickness on the part of the worker herself. In order to apply this policy a daily record of attendance has been kept.

A study of the attendance record revealed the following interesting facts:

1. Excluding vacations and regular leaves of absence, the total of absences, most of which were due to the worker's own illness, aggregated 377½ days.
2. The total possible attendance for the year, that is the total number of worker-days, was 9,175 days. Sick-leave absences, therefore, constituted 4.17% of the total possible attendance.
3. The highest percentage of absence occurred in the winter months. The low point was July, with .7%. From that point the curve was upward, reaching its maximum in February at 7.1%.
4. Each of the 31 workers had at least one day of absence due to illness. Ten of them exceeded the allotted twelve days. The average absence per person was 12.1 days.

Recognizing the fact that the strain on the workers is considerably heavier in the winter than in the summer, and noting the greatest amount of absence due to illness comes in the winter months, it has been decided to try out as an experiment the following plan: One week's vacation will be given during the winter months, in addition to the two weeks' summer vacation, but the allowance for sick-leave will be reduced to one week. In other words, the worker will exchange a week of sick-leave for an extra week of vacation.

In order to provide an incentive to the workers to keep well, there will be added to their two weeks' summer vacation as many extra days as the number of days of sick-leave which they have not used during the preceding twelve months. Therefore, if a worker went through a year without using her sick-leave privilege, she would get four weeks of vacation with pay, one in the winter and three in the summer. If she had used but three days of her sick-leave, she would get a vacation of two and one-half weeks.

The results of the plan will be watched with interest. The Federation wishes to learn whether an extra vacation in the winter time will prevent the frequent winter illnesses, and whether an incentive to keep well will reduce absences due to illness.

New Service for Executives

WITH this issue The Survey inaugurates a new service for social work executives. The Administrator's Guide (p. 345) will be a regular feature of the Midmonthly numbers. The Survey, in its field, hopes to help bring about

a close liaison between the social work executive and the manufacturer; to make the executive or purchasing board market-conscious and to inform the manufacturer, on the other hand, of the needs and purchasing power of social work. The Administrator's Guide is the first step. Here the executive will find, increasingly, a list of manufacturers of office equipment, furniture, supplies, paper, printing, publicity service—all the hundreds of items which make for an efficient and smoothly running agency. This list is small, inadequate—but it will become increasingly effective, month by month. The Survey will appreciate your suggestions for improving it.

A Letter That Pulled

CHARLES C. COOPER, director of that hospitable social settlement, Kingsley House of Pittsburgh, says the best kind of fund-raising letter is one which gives a specific human incident. He cites his letter of Christmas 1926 which brought astonishingly good returns.

Here is the letter:

"'Indiana Way' is unpaved, and does not run anywhere; meandering, it stops here and there as a house gets in its path. There is not much outlook. The ground drops off suddenly into the valley across which the tall houses of Highland Avenue loom in the sky-line. This is the world to the children of Indiana Way.

"Tony lives on Indiana Way. He has just turned eight, and after him come four sisters. It is hard enough for Tony to live on Indiana Way; but harder still, he must constantly 'tend' his four sisters. Tony pulls Teresa by her hand, and Teresa holds on to Lenora, and Lenora drags Angelina, and little Iolanthe brings up the rear. One thinks of his half-forgotten Caesar and the 'impedimenta.'

"Recently Tony found his way to the Big House on the corner. Here were swimming, gym, and friends. Dragging his train of little sisters after him Tony tried out the House. He liked story-acting the best. 'Ah,' he said, 'I like playing shows, and I like to be king. Kings have anything they want.'

"'The best thing about kings,' he added, glancing with watchful eyes at his charges parked on nearby chairs, 'is that kings don't have no children.'

"Poor little tinsel king! In the realm of make-believe, however, little Tony lives a new life. And soon he will have a Christmas at the Big House, a Christmas he never dreamed of before, even in his make-believe.

"The Big House is the Kingsley House, where Pittsburgh tries to share the fruits of life; and where you people in privileged neighborhoods are doing much to brighten the lives of Tony and his fellows.

"This is the burden of the story of Tony. I am not sure I am putting it just right; often it seems my friends see only 'the poor' where are really our kindred folk—only they live in the by-paths. Do you wish to widen the horizon of many thousands of little ones and their fathers and mothers? May we count on your Christmas contribution?"