

Readers Write

bureau of the Community Service Society, New York, has left that position to go to Pittsburgh as division director of the Allegheny County Federation of Social Agencies. . . . Louis L. Himber, formerly administrative supervisor at the New York City Department of Welfare, this month takes up duties as assistant manager of the Life Insurance Adjustment Bureau. . . . The recently established Providence (R. I.) Urban League has as its first executive secretary James N. Williams, previously with the Washington Street Branch Y.M.C.A., Montclair, N. J. . . . Homer Wickenden has resigned as executive director of the United Hospital Fund, New York, to become director of the Metropolitan Opera Guild. In Mr. Wickenden's former post is R. O. D. Hopkins, former director of the fund.

Medals—"Outstanding service to children" won the 1940 *Parents Magazine* medal for Katherine F. Lenroot, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau. The presentation was made at a luncheon held last month in New York. . . . At a similar function the Rotary Club of New York last month bestowed a service medal upon General Evangeline Booth, retired head of the Salvation Army.

In the Army Now—Six members of New York City's Department of Welfare—three clerks, two social investigators, a statistician—were called to the U. S. Army in last month's mobilization of the National Guard. When they left the department they received a full month's advance salary. In each additional month of their absence the department will pay them the difference between their former salaries and army pay.

Directory—New among community directories is the "Directory of Social and Health Agencies and Guide to the Community Resources in Richland County and Columbia, South Carolina," prepared by the Columbia Council of Social Agencies. Agencies are listed functionally and alphabetically.

Not There—"The Directory for Liberals," published by the Liberal Survey, 323 Webster Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and listed in the *Survey Mid-monthly* for August 1940 is available from the publisher, not from the District of Columbia Cooperative League as erroneously stated.

Death

KATHERINE FELTON, organizer and director of the Children's Agency of San Francisco and for the past fifteen years lecturer in child welfare at the University of California. Miss Felton's dynamic belief in social action resulted in many city ordinances and state laws for the protection and care of children.

Comment on Comment

TO THE EDITOR:—I find the comment in the August *Survey Mid-monthly* [see page 241] on the American Youth Congress quite interesting, but I think the conclusions are unsound.

For one thing the CIO-Lewis forces had very little to do with sharing control of the Youth Congress. Some people in high places in this wing of the CIO were identified with the Communist party line. Actually control rested exclusively in the hands of the CP, with certain concessions to non-communists who could be persuaded to go along. Secondly, the concessions to Joseph P. Lash and his supporters were made necessary by the fact that some thirty-five organizations formerly interested in the AYC were unrepresented at the Lake Geneva meeting and that therefore, the window-dressing of non-communist groups is now rather scanty. As a result, the CP was obliged to be generous to the few non-communist elements there, without sacrificing any of its control.

There is little question that the AYC has put a rope around its own neck, although it may continue to maintain its characteristic vitality for some time. There is absolutely no indication, as your item stated, that the New Dealers in the congress are in a strategic position to take it over next year.

Executive Secretary LEWIS CONN
Campaign for Youth Needs

TO THE EDITOR:—I am glad to comment on Mr. Conn's comment on *Survey Mid-monthly's* comment on the American Youth Congress. I don't know how Mr. Conn can maintain that control of the congress rested exclusively with the Communist party unless he knows precisely which individuals hold party cards. He may have such information; we have not. But it is true that in recent months John L. Lewis' "line"—admittedly for different reasons—has approximated that of the communists. The two groups there have been able to work in substantial harmony and share control. Whether or not the communists have the numerical edge in this partnership we are not prepared to say. Far from being unimportant, if Lewis men like James Carey had not gone along with the congress it could not have survived in its present dimensions.

The chance that the New Dealers in the congress may be able to take over rests on the ever-present possibility that Lewis may split with the communists. Privately, many CIO delegates expressed uneasiness with the congress leadership.

Naturally, the possibility of a shift in leadership would be enhanced if the thirty-five organizations Mr. Conn mentions as having withdrawn would return and bolster the opposition.

International Student Service IRVIN ROSS

A Way to Help

TO THE EDITOR:—No doubt many social workers would like to help some refugee colleague in this country, but it looks like too big an undertaking. I want to describe a practical little scheme which I have tried out with complete success. I have a small two-room apartment, without sleeping accommodation for an extra person. I wanted to do something, however, to make life easier for a charming German social worker, whom I shall call Miss A., whose plans for the future were in a very uncertain state. She was able to pay a minimum price for a furnished room, so at my suggestion she found a tiny one just around the corner from my apartment. She slept in this room and used my apartment while I was at the office.

I had breakfast ready when she came in at eight; she cleared away, dusted, and did the marketing from a house purse which I replenished when necessary. She got her own lunch, and felt free to have her friends in for lunch or tea when she wished. She also got dinner for us both. Heavy cleaning and laundry were done by others. I think that Miss A. felt that the amount of work which the arrangement required of her was fairly compensated by pleasant surroundings, opportunity to entertain her friends, and the provision of food at no expense to herself, not to mention information which she gathered from me about American social work and idiomatic use of English. For my part, I have had pleasant companionship at meals and freedom from considerable domestic detail, at a cost which was merely nominal.

Perhaps this experience furnishes a suggestion that other American social workers might be glad to follow. Care must be taken, of course, not to exploit the refugee by requiring or permitting an undue amount of work. My refugees (this is the second) have had to be restrained!

The local committee of the National Refugee Service usually can suggest women of the professional type who might be tided over a bad time by such an arrangement.

A. B. C.

"A. B. C." is a social worker, well known to *Survey* readers, who has asked us to withhold her name.—THE EDITORS.

Book Reviews

Hurdles and Goals

YOUTH—MILLIONS TOO MANY? by Bruce L. Melvin. Association Press. 220 pp. Price \$2, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

WHAT with all the programs, statistical summaries, "coordination" combinations, and researchings devoted to youth during these depression years, there would seem to be little left to say on the subject. But evidently there was a great deal left to say, and of the greatest significance. And it took the combination of sociological expert and dramatist embodied in Bruce Melvin to say it.

If Mr. Melvin's book was timely when he began to gather material for it two years ago, how much more so it is at this moment! For it is not true, as certain of our political leaders would have us believe, that the urgent demands of national defense are going to exhaust the youth resources of this country. Whether we gear our industrial and agricultural resources toward feeding the semi-starving populations of the European and Asiatic suicidal areas; build up stupendous and impregnable defenses against a universal attack; or reverse the present prevailing attitude and plunge into the deathtrap of war—in any event the generation which will have to shoulder the sequellae of these problems ten years from now has certain fundamental needs and responsibilities that cannot wait, that demand immediate attention. This book tells us what these problems are with such a fresh and vital approach that even the most hard-boiled schoolman or social worker must take notice.

After a rapid sketch of the recent decades, in which the status of American youth has changed so radically; after showing how youth on the farm has become a drug on the labor market, not needed on the farm and unwanted in the cities; after showing up, with kindly but merciless thoroughness, the incongruities of our elaborate national educational system; and after spreading before us the magic panorama of a nationwide playground which we have been too stupid to occupy and from which we have almost effectively barred the eager quest of youth—in short, after making us feel pretty generally like heels in relation to youth and getting us fairly well convinced that the only thing to do with them is to treat millions like surplus kittens "at the river's brim," this skilful author opens the other hand and lets us see that all he has been saying is a clever (though literally accurate) build-up for the real show.

In the chapters "Youth Stir," "Youth and Democracy," and others indicating

what part young people are already taking in the solution of their own problems and the relative responsibilities of national and local forces, the author outlines procedures so ambitious in scope and yet so clearly possible of accomplishment as to carry willing citizens along with him in eager pursuit of attainable goals. It would be unfair to the reader and would do violence to the artistic achievement of the author to attempt to describe his outline of plans for meeting what is manifestly inevitable. But perhaps the words of John G. Winant at the World Youth Congress in 1938 will give a hint of what is in store for the reader: "Rather than speak of the glorious role of youth, I pay tribute to its power."

The secret of the author's ability to present a book like this is found in the brief note in which he refers to his father and mother "under whose care a youth's idealism could germinate and grow." OWEN R. LOVEJOY
New York

A Way of Life

RURAL ROADS TO SECURITY, by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, LL.D. and Rev. John C. Rawe, S.J., LL.M. Bruce Publishing Company. 387 pages. Price \$2.75, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

RECENTLY this reviewer asked an agricultural economist how he regarded this volume by Monsignor Ligutti and Father Rawe. He answered: "It should be most useful to study groups in farming communities. I believe it satisfies an important need in this field."

For many years people have regarded Monsignor Ligutti as a crusader for a new type of rural life in America. He has crusaded against the increase of tenancy. He wants people to return to the family farm, implemented by various types of cooperation. In his own project in Granger, Ia., Monsignor Ligutti has made a successful demonstration of a subsistence homestead, one of the few of its kind in the United States.

"Rural Roads to Security" is basically a long series of arguments for the family farm home and for cooperation as its necessary complement. It does pack in, however, a very useful body of information on the spread of tenancy and capitalistic methods in American farming, and gives a worthwhile review of the progress of cooperation in other countries, particularly the Nova Scotia experience.

For Monsignor Ligutti and his co-workers, the new way of life cannot be based on purely material objectives but must be based on a sort of religious revival, a complete change in our whole

philosophy of rural life. It is to be hoped that their book may bring to the rural church an increasing consciousness of its mission in developing a new rural community in America.

It is interesting to note that two outstanding thinkers and planners of the new rural America, Henry Wallace and M. L. Wilson, have the same religious attitude as Monsignor Ligutti and his followers in their approach to the problems of rural America.

(Rt. Rev.) JOHN O'GRADY
Secretary, National Conference of Catholic Charities

Out of Experience

THE UNSEEN PLAGUE—CHRONIC DISEASE, by Ernst P. Boas, M.D. J. J. Augustin, Inc. 121 pp. Price \$2, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

WRITTEN by a veteran in the field of chronic disease this volume is a welcome addition to public health literature, not only for its intrinsic value but also for the stimulus which it is bound to give to this comparatively new field of activity. As a running commentary on the growing problem of the chronic patient, it is indispensable for the student of the management of chronic disease. This is particularly true of the chapters on the significance and the medical, social, and economic aspects of chronic disease. The author's analysis contains some excellent thinking, even though his conclusions may not be completely acceptable to all workers in this field.

In a volume of outstanding quality such as this, it seems ungrateful to speak of minor shortcomings, yet some of these should be noted for the sake of the record. As a result of twenty years of experience with the social and medical aspects of chronic disease, Dr. Boas is thoroughly self-reliant. This probably explains the unfortunate omission of another point of view. During the last ten years a new school has arisen which deserves to be heard. This school argues, humanely and scientifically, in favor of the integrated acute-chronic hospital plan of organization ("the true medical center") as a lesser evil than the one in which the acute and the chronic are kept apart.

In Montefiore Hospital, New York, ward patients contribute 3 percent and not 13 percent of the cost of their maintenance as the author states. He apparently has included private pavilion income which, by the way, comes from acute as well as chronic patients in this hospital. Peripheral location for patients who still require scientific care is more difficult for everyone concerned than the author admits, in submitting his plan for the establishment of the independent chronic hospital. It is not clear how group insurance schemes can help the chronic patient, since the premium would be prohibitive. The A B C classification