

Book Reviews

"Chicago Round Table"

AMERICAN SOCIETY IN WARTIME. EDITED BY WILLIAM F. OGBURN. University of Chicago Press. 237 pp. Price \$2.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

IN this small volume, eleven sociologists, members present and past of the faculty of the University of Chicago, and each an authority to be listened to with respect in his special field, review the effects of the war upon the life of our people through 1942. The material bristles with provocative statements, for a full discussion of which it is necessary to refer to the text.

Mr. Ogburn himself discusses the vital statistics of wartime, concluding that "the result of these measurements is to reduce somewhat the exaggerated impressions of the effect of the war on population changes." Ernest W. Burgess, in discussing the family, predicts that on account of the war a large number of American girls is "destined to remain single," but that women will have "more of the substance of equality" than they did following the last conflict.

Lewis Wirth, speaking of the urban community, predicts further decline in small businesses, with concomitant reduction in urban property values, at the same time that the trek to the cities is "perhaps irreversibly urbanizing" large numbers of the rural population. He believes the traditional role of city and suburbs may be reversed, the cities becoming residential while their peripheral areas contain the industries.

Of the farmers, Lowry Nelson says grass-root sentiment is not in line with that expressed by the farm bloc. "All the farmer asks is assurance that the total burden is being equitably shared."

Ellsworth Faris examines public opinion and propaganda, and finds the unfailing source of rumors to be suppression of the actual news. He sees us on the horns of a dilemma: If we postpone peace discussions, there will be serious trouble after the war; but if we try now to formulate our aims, "we run the risk of division and disunity."

Robert Redfield remarks drily that our treatment of Japanese Americans—"a people already set apart by prejudice and discriminatory legislation"—is "eloquently dissonant with what our liberal leaders say today about China and India"; while Robert E. Park predicts sternly: "The ability of the United Nations to win the peace will depend upon their ability to achieve . . . a revolutionary change in their attitudes toward alien and, particularly, colored and colonial peoples."

Herbert Blumer, who contributes the final word to the symposium, is skeptical

about our emphasis on recreation as a morale preserver. "Adjustment," he says, "is not the gateway to collective morale. The converse is much more likely to be true. People animated strongly by a common aim have an impressive way of enduring hardship and bearing grievance." He finds our morale today "organized around a goal of practical necessity"—but in the event of "the emergence of a romantic or sacred goal . . . embodying a new dynamic ideal," there would ensue "profound consequences for the world order after the war."

Other contributors are W. Lloyd Warner on "The American Town," Samuel A. Stouffer on "Social Science and the Soldier," and Edwin H. Sutherland on "Crime." J. C. COLCORD
Russell Sage Foundation

Beveridge on Beveridge

THE PILLARS OF SECURITY, AND OTHER WARTIME ESSAYS AND ADDRESSES, by Sir William H. Beveridge. Macmillan. 248 pp. Price \$2.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

SIR WILLIAM BEVERIDGE'S latest book consists of a series of popular addresses and articles, almost all of which have been prepared since the publication of the now-famous Report. Of the twenty-two papers, however, only ten deal specifically with the Beveridge plan. The remainder are concerned with broader postwar issues or with specific British problems with which the author has been personally involved.

Taken as a whole, these brief essays give a revealing insight into the social and political philosophy of the world's best known planner; and also, it may be said, an appreciation of the amazing vigor and efficiency of a man who, in the course of preparing the Report, could find time to act as chairman of a Committee on Skilled Men in the Armed Forces and to work out a fuel rationing scheme for Great Britain.

Sir William reveals himself as an ardent democrat with great confidence in the common sense, essential decency, and sense of responsibility of his fellow countrymen. He believes firmly that government is an instrument which can and should be used by the people to insure that "a national minimum for subsistence has priority over all purposes other than national defense." His theme is that "the job of Britain and of all the United Nations is double: to insure victory and then use it."

Most of the essays on the Beveridge plan are skilful, popular expositions, enlivened by a wealth of familiar metaphors. One of these, entitled "Third Time Lucky," is of particular interest,

for it is the first complete printing of Sir William's own summary of his plan which was prepared for the armed forces and then withdrawn by the Army Bureau of Current Affairs. Sir William is probably right in believing that "it is still the best short account of what I intended and a useful guide to the study of the Report."

Readers of the full Report will especially welcome the papers entitled "The Pillars of Security" and "Social Security and Social Policy," for in them Sir William corrects a very common misinterpretation of his position, a misinterpretation for which it must be admitted Sir William cannot escape some share of the blame. In the Report he undoubtedly made certain statements which appeared to justify the assertion that he had admitted his plan was impracticable unless there was full employment. He now makes it clear that he was using "the word impracticable about one detailed provision of my scheme in the event of mass unemployment: namely the proposal that when men have been unemployed for six months, if they still remained unemployed, they should be required to attend at a work or training center as a condition of getting unemployment benefit. . . . But giving up that particular detail of the scheme would not mean giving up the whole scheme. . . . What I said in general and not in detail, was not that my scheme is impracticable, if there is mass unemployment, but that no scheme of social insurance is satisfactory if there is mass unemployment. There is all the difference in the world between the two statements."

These two chapters, together with one entitled "The Government Proposals and the Beveridge Report," should be required reading for everyone who wishes to keep up to date on developments in social security planning.

EVELINE M. BURNS

Washington, D. C.

An Old Problem in New Perspective

BROWN AMERICANS: THE STORY OF A TENTH OF THE NATION, by Edwin R. Embree. Viking. 248 pp. Price \$2.75, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

IN its original version, written twelve years ago, this panoramic view of the whole of the Negro experience in America was exciting and illuminating. It put into challenging and hopeful perspective what previously had been too often presented either in the dull, dehumanized lineaments of sociology or the melodramatically stereotyped outlines of race polemics. The net effect was a fresh conception of the American "race problem" as part and parcel of the history of a slowly but inevitably evolving American democracy.

Now, at a most timely moment, it reappears, extensively rewritten and

brought up to date, this time again with a fresh perspective—the added dimensions of the present crisis and the goal of world democracy. In such a setting, this very readable and balanced narrative of the Negro's group history becomes an important challenge to constructive thinking and action on the part of the white majority. "Brown Americans," says Mr. Embree, "are still far from receiving fair treatment, and time is growing short. Our attitude toward colored people is no longer a question that concerns America alone. It has become of world importance. The colored peoples of the earth have long resented the arrogance of white men, for the myth of a 'master race' was held by most white nations long before Nazi Germany carried it to its absurd conclusion. Now hundreds of millions of yellow and brown and black peoples, formerly vassals of Western Europe and North America, are becoming industrialized and powerful. They are helping to win this war and will have to be reckoned with in the new world. The day of racial superiority is over. . . . If we are to have a decent and orderly world, we must prove that we want democracy for all men, not merely for white men. The test of our belief in universal freedom is our practice at home. The denial of the full rights of citizenship to Negroes is the glaring sign of our race prejudice. Negroes have been our colonials, and there is no room in the new world for colonial status. The United States can help create a free world only by giving the full scope of freedom to all its people." Pithy, provocative, and common sense in its whole approach and statement of the problem, Mr. Embree's clarifying interpretation should have the widest possible reading and consideration from the general public.

Howard University

ALAIN LOCKE

The TVA—It's First Ten Years

THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY—A STUDY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, by C. Herman Pritchett. University of North Carolina Press. 333 pp. Price \$3.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

THIS excellent picture of the TVA, a new kind of tool for the public effectuation of important, constructive economic and social purposes, appears as the agency rounds out its first decade. *Survey Graphic* early caught the significance of the TVA experiment; the series of articles by the first chairman on "Bench Marks in the Tennessee Valley" were among the first public statements of its high vision and purpose. The Valley in those days gave a former foreign correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News* a sense—unique in the United States—of the "Soviet tempo."

Then came years of heart-sickening

discord, of concerted attacks in the courts, ultimately resolved. And the TVA dropped out of the headlines. Few people, I imagine, who followed the development of the TVA so excitedly when it employed 12,000 men in 1935 are aware that it employs 40,000 in 1943; that by 1944 it will generate two million KWS of power; or that in 1941 one fifth of its power was generated by steam!

Dr. Pritchett writes flowingly and interestingly, but restrainedly. He appraises people and forces fairly, with a liberal eye but without over-dramatization. He tells first what the TVA has done—water control, power, and regional planning and development—and then highlights some administrative problems and their solutions. He traces the development of over-all administrative organization (a surprisingly interesting story); the relations of the agency to the President, the Congress, and the comptroller general (basically important in appraising the validity of a regional agency in a democratic society); and stresses the striking and altogether unpredicted success of the agency in building up a superior merit system in the face of terrific pressures without the protection (or restrictions) of civil service.

Dr. Pritchett has had unusual opportunities to observe the TVA from within. He has been a special student of the public corporation. It can honestly be said that Dr. Pritchett's book fills a long-felt want. This story has not been told before; it is well told here.

CHARLES S. ASCHER
National Housing Agency

Human Problems in Illness

PSYCHOTHERAPY IN MEDICAL PRACTICE, by Maurice Levine, M.D. Macmillan. 320 pp. Price \$3.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

THIS book fulfils a long felt need for a presentation of the art of psychotherapy in terms that can be of practical use to the practicing physician in fields other than psychiatry. Until recently, the medical practitioner has been compelled to rely upon his own intuition and common sense knowledge of human nature in attempting to deal with the "nervous" factors, usually rather vaguely defined, that everyone recognizes play such an important role in influencing the course of many illnesses, both functional and organic. As in every sound discussion of psychotherapy, Dr. Levine appeals to this everyday knowledge of psychology and in a very practical introductory chapter attempts to sweep away some of the prejudices that interfere with a common sense attitude toward psychiatric problems.

There follow four chapters on psychotherapeutic methods. They precede chapters on psychiatric diagnosis, psychogenic factors, and choice of cases for psycho-

therapy. In the opinion of the reviewer, this is the only unfortunate feature of the author's otherwise excellent presentation. In a discussion of psychotherapy, the central emphasis should be not upon technical procedures but upon the psychological understanding of the patient's human problems which should furnish the orientation and guide for every step in the psychotherapeutic process. The author prefaces this discussion by stating: "Even the simpler methods of psychotherapy should be preceded by some attempt to understand the patient as a person, and his problems with other persons and with life situations. The emphasis in every case should first of all be on the diagnosis, the understanding of the psychological and social problems." He refers the reader to other works for a systematic discussion of "the principles upon which such an understanding can be based," and then by immediately proceeding to an elaborate enumeration and classification of psychotherapeutic methods tends to distract the reader from the importance of psychological understanding which is the central issue.

The discussion of the several psychotherapeutic methods, however, is excellent and has the great merit, among others, of repeatedly calling attention to the effect of the therapist's own emotional attitudes upon the therapeutic process. The chapter on suicide is excellent, as is a series of very practical chapters dealing with the fundamental human problems about which such a large proportion of psychiatric difficulties revolve: "Sex and Marriage," "Basic Attitudes Toward Children," "Problems of Parents and Children." The book concludes with a very helpful discussion of the concepts of normality and maturity.

Chicago THOMAS M. FRENCH, M.D.

The Democratic School of Tomorrow

NEW SCHOOLS FOR A NEW CULTURE—EXPERIMENTAL APPLICATIONS FOR TOMORROW, by Charles M. MacConnell, Ernest O. Melby, Christian O. Arndt. Harper. 229 pp. Price \$2.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

THIS book is written with a two-fold purpose in mind. It attempts to describe an experiment "to teach democracy functionally" in the Evanston Township High School of Evanston, Ill., and to outline the theoretical and practical structure of the school of tomorrow.

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A good share of the book is devoted to a description of these efforts, together with an appraisal and evaluation of the New School and the relations it has stimulated between home and school from the layman's as well as the educator's point of view.

The second purpose of the book is to analyze the nature of democratic education and its implications for teacher education and the organization of the school of tomorrow. The authors believe the American school has failed to realize its democratic possibilities. They consider it autocratic in its organization and European rather than American in its cultural orientation. The school of tomorrow, while no less concerned with intellectual growth than the traditional school, will stress a scholarship much closer to the needs of man and the real problems of the community it serves. They conceive it as ministering to a wider range of students. It will emphasize the scientific outlook and American backgrounds.

The book is full of suggestions and challenges for all who seek to bring American secondary education into harmony with the needs of American culture. It must be said, however, that in striving to realize two purposes seemingly related, neither is satisfactorily achieved. The school man will find the description of the New School program incomplete as a report and amazingly deficient when measured against the outlines of the school of tomorrow. Stimulating and lively and creative as the core program may be in reality, as described in this book, it seems to stress self-direction to the virtual exclusion of experiences that promote a generous and self-forgetful living in the lives of others.

The concluding chapter of the book, a dialogue between the authors, turns to the all importance of agrarian experience "as a necessary base for any general education," and reveals the dependence of the authors upon life in the small town and the agrarian community of our past for a vision of the democratic community and the democratic school of tomorrow. Their hearts as well as their eyes remain with the past even as their words are directed toward the future.

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Directory of Social Organizations (cont.)

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GIRL SCOUTS—155 East 44th Street, New York, N. Y. A non-sectarian, character-building organization, training girls to be responsible citizens and resourceful people. Democratically run troop activities provide opportunities for war work, community service, hobbies, outdoor living. Program adapted to Brownie Scouts (7-10), Girl Scouts (10-15), Senior Girl Scouts (15-18); functions through volunteer leaders and committees that supervise and promote Girl Scouting locally.

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National Conference

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THE AMERICAN RED CROSS—Administered through National Headquarters in Washington, D. C., and five Area offices in San Francisco, St. Louis, Atlanta, New York City, and Alexandria, Va. There are 3756 local Chapters organized mostly on a county basis. Services of the Red Cross are: Disaster Relief and Civilian War Aid, First Aid, Water Safety and Accident Prevention, Junior Red Cross, Medical and Health Service, Nursing Service, Services to the Armed Forces, Volunteer Special Services, Blood Donor Service, Nutrition Service, and War Relief Production Service.

Religious Organizations

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA—297 Fourth Ave., New York City. The inter-denominational home mission body of 23 denominations. Executive Secretaries, Edith E. Lowry, Mark A. Dawber; Migrant Supervisors; Western, Mrs. F. E. Shotwell, 3330 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.; Mid-Western, Miss Helen White, 203 North Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

JEWISH WELFARE BOARD, 220 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Frank L. Weil, President; Max Wilner, Treasurer; Joseph Rosenzweig, Secretary; Louis Kraft, Executive Director. A national agency serving as parent body for Jewish Community Centers, YMHAs, etc., and providing welfare, religious and social activities for soldiers and sailors and other members of defense forces. A member of the United Service Organizations.

NATIONAL BOARD, YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS, 600 Lexington Ave., New York City. An international Christian woman movement devoted to service for women and girls and the attempt to help build a society in which the abundant life is possible for every individual.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, INC.—1819 Broadway, New York City. Mrs. Maurice L. Goldman, President; Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann, Chairman Ex. Com.; Miss Flora R. Rothenberg, Ex. Dir. Organization of Jewish women initiating and developing programs and activities in service for foreign born, peace, social legislation, adult Jewish education, and social welfare. Conducts bureau of international service. Serves as clearing bureau for local affiliated groups throughout the country.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS—347 Madison Ave., New York City, 1187 local Associations federated for Christian leadership and citizenship training among young men and boys.

Social Work Personnel

SOCIAL WORK VOCATIONAL BUREAU, 122 East 22nd Street, New York City. National placement and counselling service in case work fields. Membership organization for social workers and agencies. No placement fee. Louise C. Odencrantz, Director.

