

Trends in Gerontology. Nathan W. Shock. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 1951. 153 pp. \$2.50.

After a brief introduction this excellent summary discusses population, employment, income maintenance, retirement, health, housing, education, community programs, research, and the creation of an institute of gerontology. It will prove very worthwhile reading for every thoughtful person. From it one can learn of the many diverse activities that effect healthful and satisfactory living during the later years of life. The book can help many individuals to create a sound plan for the inevitable future. The concluding chapter, stressing the need for one or more institutes of gerontology, indicates one of the greatest deficiencies in our current national research program. Very slow progress is being made in gerontological research, for most current programs are quite ephemeral.

A Classified Bibliography of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Nathan W. Shock. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 1951. 599 pp. \$15.00.

This work, with 18,036 references, represents a landmark in the history of the study of aging. Although brief bibliographies have been published for several centuries in this field, they previously comprised reference lists attached to texts. The usefulness of this work will increase, as our civilization becomes more aware of the intricate problems of aging, because it affords rapid entrance into the literature of many specialized fields.

Both the author and subject indexes are quite complete. The list of journals cited is arranged alphabetically with the abbreviations used. The main headings include orientation, biology of aging, organ systems, geriatrics, psychological processes, social and economic aspects, and miscellaneous. The last section is probably the least complete but among the most interesting, for it covers such diverse topics as historical references, lay texts, nonliving systems, popular articles, research methods, organizations, programs, and institutes. During the years this work has been in progress the editor has become aware that bibliographies begin to age at conception; therefore the *Journal of Gerontology* plans to set up a fountain of youth by integrating its *Index to Current Periodical Literature* to accord with the classified outline of the *Classified Bibliography*.

Conference on Problems of Aging. Transactions of the Twelfth Conference, February 6-7, 1950, New York. Nathan W. Shock, Ed. New York: Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 1951. 215 pp. \$3.50.

The series of informal conferences recorded in this volume covers several divisions in the area of sociology and psychology. Under the titles of intrapersonal and interpersonal aspects, L. K. Frank and R. J. Havighurst presented brief reviews. These were followed by a discussion of the relation of gerontology

to clinical medicine by E. J. Stieglitz and the psychopathological aspects of aging by W. Malamud.

Publication of these discussions permits the reader to take his place in the midst of a small group of diverse specialists. One observes the clinician matching ideas with the sociologist and psychologist as well as with the biologist. Much of the flavor of the original discussion is preserved. Lacking in such publications is the careful and often verbose development of bodies of information hung upon well-calculated skeletons.

The Macy Foundation publications would be much improved from the point of view of the collector if each carried a serial number following the plan of federal and state experiment stations.

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A History of Medicine: Primitive and Archaic Medicine. Vol. I, Henry E. Sigerist. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1951. 564 pp. \$8.50.

The history of medicine is the history of mankind. At every stage in man's progress there has been the struggle against disease. Contractures and malformations resulting from infection as well as endocrine disturbances are clearly presented in the ancient ceramics and in the sketches traced by prehistoric man on the walls of caves.

In this, the first volume of a projected total of eight, the author relates his training for this most ambitious undertaking and gives a brief sketch of the entire work. Dr. Sigerist's linguistic ability and his broad experience in medicine are well known to his colleagues in the United States and Europe. His years as director of the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins brought him into active contact with many kindred spirits from all over the world. The foundation for this monumental work was thoroughly established in the classroom, in seminars, and in travel. He states his thesis as follows: "Medical history, therefore, will study health and disease through the ages, the conditions for health and disease and the history of all human activities that tended to promote health, to prevent illness, and to restore the sick, no matter who the acting individuals were."

The major part of the book is devoted to medicine in the great civilizations of the ancient Orient, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. The medical literature preserved in papyri and cuneiform tablets and other sources is described and analyzed. The closely related Papyrus Edwin Smith and Papyrus Ebers are considered in detail. At the end of each chapter there are extensive references, and reproductions of early works of art richly document the text. The author's scholarship and training for the task are clearly reflected. It is fervently hoped that he will be able to finish the task he has so valiantly undertaken.

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