

Book Reviews

Administrative Medicine. Transactions of the first conference, 9-11 Mar. 1953. George S. Stevenson, Ed. Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation, New York, 1953. 176 pp. Illus. \$3.

This is a report of the first of five annual conferences on administrative medicine conducted under the auspices of the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation. These conferences are designed to foster joint planning for the solution of major problems in administrative medicine by providing informal exchange of ideas and facts among individuals of varied background and training related to this field.

This particular conference was devoted to the broadening of medical care beyond the immediate treatment of disease by developing an awareness in the health professions of the many related important factors in the management of disease and the preservation of health. These included preventive, economic, political, environmental, and genetic influences on the cause, evolution, and termination of disease and the provision of medical care. Many important points were made.

Spirited discussion centered around the relationship of the social sciences to medical care and medical education, stimulated by participants representing widely divergent points of view. On the one hand, it was recommended that the concepts of social science be recognized as important determining factors in medical administration. It was further proposed that the "social science disciplines" be a major focal point in educational programs for the health professions. In contrast, it was also argued that these were only common-sense measures and that, in particular, the medical curriculum should be limited to more important matters, such as the basic sciences and clinical medicine based on pathologic physiology. Curiously enough, no mention was made of the need for distinguishing between established facts and undocumented ideas in the social sciences. In my opinion, much of the controversy would disappear if representatives of the social sciences would clearly distinguish in their fields, as has been done in the physical and biological sciences, the concepts deduced from scattered individual observations from principles induced by means of the scientific method.

This report makes interesting reading. The editor has preserved the informal and spontaneous flavor of the conference in these transactions. As he will in the case of reports of all informal conferences, however, the casual reader is likely to find a need for guidance. This could be provided *post hoc* by appending a list of appropriate references where documentation is possible. The lack of such documentation recommends this book primarily to the informed reader.

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Of the five papers composing this generously illustrated volume, the one entitled "Mound E-III-3, Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala," by Edwin M. Shook and Alfred V. Kidder, has the broadest interpretative significance. The paper contains a detailed description of the excavation of a single mound in a large archeological site. So technical is the presentation that even the authors warn the nonspecialist reader to skip to the brief summary. Nevertheless, an important general point is brought out in the discussion. As evidenced by this mound containing two elaborate tombs, a stage of development—social, religious, and technologic—must have been attained at an earlier time than hitherto believed. The mound belongs to the period labeled Archaic, yet the degree of cultural advance is closely comparable to that of the Classic period. In conclusion, the authors suggest that if leadership in the development of the social structure typical of Classic Mesoamerica was assumed by any single pre-Classic people, those responsible for the enormous mounds, of which E-III-3 is one, might well have been that people.

The object of the paper by Ralph L. Roys, "Conquest sites and the subsequent destruction of Maya architecture in the interior of northern Yucatan," is to furnish a general picture of the towns and buildings both contemporary and abandoned which the Spaniards found in the more thickly populated regions of the area. Additional evidence is given, "not only that a large number of the towns in northern Yucatan are located at their pre-Spanish sites, but that the present churches and plazas are situated at the ceremonial centers of the old towns."

The ball game of the ancient Maya attracts modern interest because it was played with a heavy solid rubber ball of native manufacture, because it was a team game by means of which towns and localities competed, and because it was played by both amateurs and professionals. The study "The ball courts at Copan," by Gustav Strömsvik, includes comparative material on ball courts from four other Maya centers in the vicinity of the key site. The results indicate that Copan is the oldest court yet discovered, and the author concludes that the origin of the game perhaps antedates formal architecture in Mesoamerica and that the complex very probably spread from a common point of origin.

In "Pottery from Chipoc, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala," Robert E. Smith establishes what at present appears to be "the only true ceramic phase known in that region." As in the other papers, many questions are raised and the necessity for much more extensive work is emphasized.