

But those who want to place the truly significant work of Vancouver in its historical setting in the development of the cartography of the northwest coast of North America will find the book somewhat disappointing. It is apparent that the author has not given the same critical attention to the cartographic sources pertinent to his subject that he has to the journals, letters, and other text materials. Three of the five maps provided show detailed routes of the survey ships along the northwest coast. The crude delineation of coastal features, however, hardly justifies the description "Adapted from Vancouver's Charts."

CARL H. MAPES

*Rand McNally and Company,
Chicago, Illinois*

Medicine and Society in America 1660-1860. Richard Harrison Shryock. New York University Press, New York, 1960. viii + 182 pp. \$4.

First prepared as the Anson G. Phelps lectures on early American history and delivered at New York University in 1959, this volume presents in concise form a synthesis of the author's views on the development of medicine in America up to about 1860.

In three chapters covering the period 1660-1820 and one covering 1820-60, Shryock lucidly describes medical thought and practice, the composition of the profession, as well as its education, regulation, research (or lack of it), institutions, organizations, and publications. He discusses health conditions among the general population and the efforts made to improve these conditions by public and private measures. These topics, developed historically, are carefully related to each other, to the general background of American society, and to their European origins or counterparts.

Clearly, the best that Americans could offer in original medical thought and research or in medical institutions still fell far behind the best that Europe could offer in 1860. The history of the profession does show, however, constant efforts to improve education, practice, and standards, and it is not so clear that in 1860 the average American practitioner was inferior to the average European. As Shryock points out, the chief difference was that the second-class practitioner in Europe was so labeled. The self-criticism and disillusionment prevalent among American

medical leaders by 1850 may be traced, in part, to the very real problems they faced: weak proprietary schools, the absence of research, widespread quackery, medical sectarianism, and the ineffectiveness, increasingly recognized, of traditional medical practices. But their complaints also indicate progress; they show how much higher medical leaders had raised their sights.

This book offers, in compact form, a sound and readable synthesis of many aspects of American medical history, which is based on the author's years of brilliant and productive research in the field. Perhaps the least satisfactory part is the general picture of diseases and health conditions in the colonial era: the data are scarce and difficult to interpret in modern terms; intensive study is still needed in this area. To date, however, this book is the best brief, interpretive account of American medicine up to 1860, of interest and value to historians and physicians alike.

JOHN B. BLAKE

*Division of Medical Sciences,
Smithsonian Institution*

Economics and Social Sciences

Communist China and Asia: Challenge to American Policy. A Doak Barnett. Published for the Council on Foreign Relations by Harper, New York, 1960. xi + 575 pp. \$6.75.

Granted that there has been all too little public debate of United States policy toward China since the scapegoat-hunting, "Who lost China?" days, what there has been of it has unfortunately centered on the merely tactical question of diplomatic recognition. The great virtue of Barnett's book is that it places the challenge presented by Communist China to America within the critical context of the political and economic future of Asia as a whole, and it does so with a wealth of documented facts that form the basis for some tough-minded conclusions.

Communist China and Asia is concerned primarily with the political, economic, and cultural means by which Communist China is seeking to influence the future of the noncommunist countries of Asia. Barnett begins his examination of the challenge of Peking's multiform foreign policy with an appraisal of the stability of the Chinese Communist regime at home

and with an examination of its motivation and strategic aims. He then turns to an analysis of Peking's ways and means in its relations with Asia, the history of these relations since 1949, and an appraisal of the significance of the Sino-Soviet alliance. The concluding chapters take up the question of Taiwan and then offer the most sensible discussion of United States policy toward Communist China that I have yet seen.

These are the important conclusions that emerge from Barnett's judicious sifting of the information available to us:

1) The Chinese Communist regime exercises effective, totalitarian control over the mainland of China. There is little, if any, prospect either for the overthrow of the regime by an internal revolt or for the reconquest of the mainland by Chiang Kai-shek.

2) Despite serious problems in the agricultural sector, China's economic advances in the past decade have been impressive. Its "rate of economic growth now appears to be almost double that of India, and in a few years Peking will probably have built a base of heavy industries overshadowing that of Japan." Both as a carrot (suggesting a model for forced industrialization elsewhere) and as a stick (because it has made Communist China's military strength greater, perhaps, than that of all other countries in East Asia combined), Peking's growing economic potential has rapidly increased its power and influence relative to those of its neighbors.

3) In the years ahead Communist China will employ its firm rule at home and its economic and military strength in an effort to achieve Great Power status and to promote the spread of communism in Asia. To attain these ends, "Peking has already used, and will continue using, all the instruments of foreign policy at its command, including diplomacy, political maneuver, subversion, trade, and economic aid, as well as military power." Moreover, Peking can count on the firm backing of the Soviet Union. "There is little chance of an open split between them within the next few years, and the Sino-Soviet alliance undoubtedly will hold together for the predictable future."

4) Chinese Communist success in dominating Asia would mean a disastrous shift in the world balance of power in favor of the Communist bloc. To prevent this outcome, adequate mili-