

tive physiology, the value of a review decreases sharply if the delay between writing and publication is more than 6 months.

This series may well become a standard source of reviews for teachers, researchers, and students in the field. Its success will depend on whether the initial high quality can be maintained and on whether the publishers can markedly reduce the delay in publication. Such volumes have only a transient usefulness, and they would be more widely purchased if a less expensive format and binding were used.

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Health Care and Government

Socialized Medicine in England and Wales. The National Health Service, 1948–1961. Almont Lindsey. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1962. xiii + 561 pp. \$8.50.

This 474-page book, which, in addition, has extensive footnotes and a long bibliography, is an attempt by an American historian, Almont Lindsey, to review the 13 years' experience of England and Wales with their National Health Service. Scotland was omitted because of certain technical differences in the organization of its service.

The author quotes extensively from publications, but he writes fluently and incorporates the quotations smoothly into his text so that the book reads easily and retains its scholarly documentation.

From the outset Lindsey seems to favor the idea of the National Health Service, and he is frankly impatient with some of the attitudes of the British Medical Association at the time of the inception of the service. His approach is not as impartial as Harry Eckstein's (*The English Health Service: Its Origins, Structure, and Achievements*. Harvard University Press, 1958), yet his occasional expression of personal opinion enlivens the prose and stimulates the interest of the reader. The author could have given somewhat more attention to the organization of the British Medical Association. Indeed, a detailed study of the organization of professional health so-

cieties in Britain and in the United States of America would be very illuminating. It is not clear, for example, from this book, what the British Medical Association's relationship is to the medical profession as a whole even though considerable attention is devoted to the Association. In addition, it is apparent that the Health Service is being given credit for advances in medical care which have also occurred in other medical care settings.

The author makes the important point that health care in England and Wales is considered to be a right of all people regardless of their ability to pay. One can conclude from his data that, while this principle is accepted, the definition of health needs by the health authorities was neglected. In the interest of objectivity, the author might well have explored this matter further. In fact, the medical profession in England and Scotland has been pioneering in the study of health needs, in itself a most difficult subject that has been neglected until recently, especially in this country. One could not, of course, expect the author, a historian, to discourse on the subject of why, in the instance of three patients with presumably identical headaches, one patient will go about his business, the second will take aspirin, and the third will stop work and visit his doctor. Yet these factors, impossible at the present time to quantitate, are important in the fiscal problems that have beset the National Health Service, and it is well that Great Britain saw fit to plunge into this unknown sea to obtain information that will be of help to other countries in planning medical care programs. It is unfortunate that adequate research into these matters could not have been carried out prior to starting the National Health Service. However, the author shows clearly that many years of thinking and planning preceded the establishment of the National Health Service but that, in spite of this, the demands of the people for health service legislation could not await all of the answers.

Although the author does not stress the point, he makes it clear that the hospitals of Britain were socialized and that the profession was socialized, if at all, to a lesser extent. Moreover, in the book adequate attention is given to the dental, pharmaceutical, and other aspects of the health care program.

Finally, the clear picture that the

reader is given of the English scene preceding the development of the National Health Service points up the differences between Britain and this country. Thus, students of health care in this country will find the book valuable, since Britain is well ahead of us in these areas: for example, the Ministry of Health was established in Britain in 1911.

That a historian should devote his talents to a study of health care is salutary and reflects a growing awareness that history had much to do with health and that health has much to do with history. It reflects also an important trend of nonmedical scholars becoming more and more interested in the problems of the health professions. The biochemist followed such a course some years ago, and look at what they have contributed to medical science.

The book's long and thorough documentation makes it valuable to the serious scholar in this field. The final chapter is an excellent summary of the many points made, and, although the author's enthusiasm for the program in England and Wales stands out especially in this part of the book, the busy physician will find it well worth his time to read this chapter.

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Political and Economic Change

The Underprivileged Nations. Pierre Moussa. Translated from the French by Alan Braley. Sidgwick and Jackson, London, 1962. xxi + 198 pp. Illus. 30s.

This is a translation of Moussa's non-technical and policy-oriented but quite information-laden *Les Nations prole-taires* (1959).

Noting the instability of the prices of raw commodities exported by non-industrial nations, the author advocates agreements to stabilize prices (perhaps at levels about 25 percent higher than those now current); he apparently rejects the alternative of expending evenly over time the funds gotten from exports, and he neglects the adverse repercussions of stabilizing prices (chapters 1 and 2). Agrarian reform, together with its objectives and possible effects, is touched upon (chapter 4), and replacement of middlemen by ag-