

Preventive medicine and public health. Wilson G. Smillie. New York: Macmillan, 1946. Pp. xvi + 607. (Illustrated.) \$6.00.

Among teachers of the preventive, community, and public health aspects of medicine there are few who have been satisfied with the texts available in the field. Most of the members of this group will welcome this new work by Smillie. The book is so well planned and has such content that the graduate, too, will gain from it an appreciation of the import of these concepts of medicine in his own practice.

Too frequently these aspects of medicine have been presented in the curriculum as subjects quite apart from medicine per se—as distinct courses, related to and recognized as parts of medicine in the broader concept but looked upon by teachers and even by other members of the faculty and students as special fields in themselves. Obviously, this viewpoint is untenable. The medical services of the military forces, during World War II and before, demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of the preventive viewpoint as a part of medicine and as of equal import with the curative viewpoint. Although not new, the concept of correlation and coordination of the preventive and public health aspects with the clinical aspects of medicine, emphasizing these and epidemiologic knowledge concurrently with instruction in history taking, physical examination, laboratory studies, diagnosis, therapy, and prognosis, is a principle operative in but few American centers in medical education. Smillie's new work, however, provides the teacher with a textbook which will permit the teaching of the preventive, community, and public health areas in close relation to the clinical areas of medicine, utilizing the same methods. The student will find in this book individual case histories and epidemiologic analyses of outbreaks of communicable disease and thus may widen his perspective beyond the communicable diseases to include nutritional deficiency states, mental affections, metabolic disturbances, neoplastic diseases, etc. Through the material presented he may acquire a working knowledge that will enable him better to meet his responsibilities and to take advantage of his opportunities in the community.

The plan of the book is excellent. From an introductory section dealing with general concepts, population, and quantitative methods used in medicine, the subject is developed to include sections on environmental factors, communicable diseases and methods used in attempts at their control, child and adult health problems, and public health administration. The content is presented in a style permitting of easy reading, the thesis being developed in logical sequence. More careful editing would, however, have improved the text definitely. In spite of wartime restrictions, the publishers have produced an interesting and attractive publication for which they and the author need make no apologies.

From the adverse viewpoint, this reviewer was disappointed to find certain avoidable inaccuracies, some of them recurring frequently, and the occasional use of older terminology and of terms in ways that might serve to produce erroneous impressions. For example, the terms

“death rate,” “mortality rate,” and “case fatality rate” are used interchangeably, even to expressing the “death rate” and the “mortality rate” in per cent; “trichinosis” is used for trichiniasis, or, preferably, trichineliasis; and such statements as the following are made: “Diphtheria is caused by the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus” (p. 216); “Serum . . . may agglutinate suspensions of both *B. tularensis* and *B. abortus*” (p. 134); “. . . insects such as ticks” (pp. 152, 183); “Large cities are now virtually immune (to milk-borne disease) because of universal pasteurization ordinances” (p. 129).

Notwithstanding these and other editorial deviations of greater or less import, however, it is emphasized that in this reviewer's opinion the book is a splendid addition to the armamentarium of the student of medicine, be he graduate or undergraduate, generalist or specialist, and should find profitable use on a wide scale. Those engaged in the teaching of the preventive, community, and public health aspects of medicine owe a great deal to Dr. Smillie for this, his latest contribution.

J. P. GRAY

Medical College of Virginia, Richmond

The Indians of the Southeastern United States. John R. Swanton. (Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology Bull. 137.) Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1946. Pp. xiii + 943. (Illustrated.) \$2.75.

The present monograph is a capstone crowning the structure of historical ethnology that Dr. Swanton has built for the North American Indian Southeast. It culminates more than 40 years of anthropological field work and library research, well over 30 of which have been devoted to the area which has come to be so largely identified with this scientist. In size of volume, geographical area covered, and range of problems considered, this is his most extensive study. It completes the history and ethnology of the area begun in 1911 with his first major southeastern monograph, *Indian tribes of the lower Mississippi*.

Swanton joined the Bureau of American Ethnology at the turn of the century; his first publication carrying the imprint of the Bureau was in 1905; he published his first paper on southeastern ethnology in 1907. Since this date his bibliography includes over 100 monographs and articles (exclusive of reviews, obituaries, and similar brief pieces), approximately three-fourths of which deal with the Southeast. Some 30 of the southeastern studies, in addition to several of his Northwest Coast and more general papers, are Smithsonian publications. Not only at the Smithsonian but also among American anthropologists in general, his name has become virtually synonymous with southeastern ethnology. It is, in fact, doubtful if another person in American anthropology has made as large a singlehanded contribution to the history and ethnology of a culture area of aboriginal America.

The present volume is in the same scrupulously exact, meticulously detailed, cautiously inductive historical tradition of its major predecessors. It reveals the author's