

American public health and social work. It contains a detailed itinerary of his travels in America and of his activities at Baltimore and elsewhere. Particularly interesting are his comments on Welch, Sedgwick, and Chapin. The final chapters of this part are devoted to a presentation of the American scene, particularly in public health and social work, as it appears to English eyes. One chapter is devoted to a discussion of the prohibition experiment with which he was in the beginning highly sympathetic. Every American reader will regret that Sir Arthur did not give himself freer rein in his comments on American public health.

The third part, devoted to the increasing socialization of medicine, presents an interesting critique of the Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care and the attitude of the American medical profession in relation to health insurance. The final chapters give a brief account of his observations in Russia, and of other countries where the socialization of medicine is in progress.

Most American readers, on finishing this interesting volume, will be inclined to agree with Doctor Newsholme's essential thesis as to the need for the integration of preventive and curative medicine, and with his further conclusion that successful attack on many pressing problems of health can not be made until more adequate provision, through social insurance or otherwise, is made for the medical care of the less fortunate part of the population.

ALLAN W. FREEMAN, M.D.

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## SHADOW ON THE LAND—SYPHILIS<sup>1</sup>

ALREADY favorably received throughout the country, and soon to be reprinted in a paper-bound edition suitable for wholesale distribution at minimum expense, *SHADOW ON THE LAND* is recognized as one of the most useful of the many recent contributions to popular literature on syphilis and its control. Other reviewers have pointed out that one of the chief virtues of the book is its simple, understandable style with avoidance, wherever possible, of the use of qualifying phrases and highly technical terms. The author makes free use of anecdotes and examples,

<sup>1</sup> Parran, Thomas: *SHADOW ON THE LAND—Syphilis*. New York, Reynal and Hitchcock, 1937. 309 pages. \$2.50.

a method of writing which enhances the interest of the reader and gives life to the kind of statements often left in the abstract.

The first seven chapters have to do with the clinical and immunological characteristics of syphilis, the history of the disease, its prevalence and trend, the experiences of Scandinavian and other European countries, and the woeful lack of official control facilities in the United States. Although not always presented in a form so attractive to the lay reader, most of the material in this section is similar to that which has been employed by other authors when addressing the public on the same subject. The principal criticism of this part of the book has to do with a practice which the author himself suggests may be questionable when he says, "One is apt to draw erroneous conclusions as to the amount of syphilis." The practice referred to is that of giving prominence to numerical estimates based upon admittedly unsatisfactory data. These estimates are for the most part carefully labeled, but it seems doubtful whether the average reader will remember them as such, or whether he may, for example, be more likely to quote as an established fact the statement that "one adult in ten," "has had," "has," or "will have" syphilis.

Chapters VIII, IX, and X of *SHADOW ON THE LAND* include descriptions of special phases of the syphilis problem, the disease in the Negro, and in industry, prostitution, and the ethical outlook. These chapters present much information which will be new to the layman and from a point of view he should become familiar with. Of special importance is the author's conviction that Government and industry "should not only look for syphilis, but each should carry its part of the load." "If each industry will take responsibility for knowing its own problem, for seeing that treatment is available, and for continuing to give employment to those who seek a cure, the cost to industry will be paid promptly in terms of lower compensation and more efficient labor."

Difficulties encountered, and the content and scope of syphilis control programs are among the subjects discussed in the last four chapters of Dr. Parran's book. As far as this reviewer is aware, *SHADOW ON THE LAND* is the only one of recent books on syphilis which actually tells the layman what machinery must be provided, and how and with what personnel it must operate. It is gratifying to find mention of the part to be played by both official and voluntary health organizations, as well as references to integration with other health activities and the necessity for health departments free from political influence. Such a presentation as this

should give to the civic-minded reader a basis for appraising the syphilis control facilities in his own community and for stimulating provisions for their improvement.

A review of *SHADOW ON THE LAND* would be incomplete without reference to its biographical aspects. Quite apart from its value for educational purposes, the book deserves to be read as an entertaining account of the experiences of a hard-working and enthusiastic health official who devoted several years of full-time service to the subject he deals with and whose activities have carried him over the width and breadth of the United States and into other countries.

GEORGE H. RAMSEY, M.D.

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### EVER-NORMAL NUTRITION

IN 1925 at the instance of the Yugoslav delegation, the League of Nations through its Health Organization took steps towards examining means of regulating, from a public health standpoint, the manufacture and sale of food products. Meeting a request from the French Government, the League extended the program three years later to include the subject of nutrition. Now as an outgrowth of this and other inconspicuous incidents,<sup>1</sup> the Mixed Committee of the League submits its final report on the Relation of Nutrition to Health, Agriculture and Economic Policy.<sup>2</sup> This report, then, is significant as much for what it represents as for what it contains. Behind it we see why this afterthought of the program developed into the main enterprise, a development which was as natural as it was inevitable. For the science of nutrition with its newly-established system of principles and facts had become available for fuller application at a period of intense need, arising from a world-wide nutrition problem which, although probably always present or imminent, was now the more disturbing because attention had been focussed on its severity and extent by the world economic depression.

<sup>1</sup> Limits of space prevent a full description of the League's early work in nutrition, which included a study of the food of Japan, a survey of nutrition in Chile, and the publication of a volume on Nutrition and Public Health.

<sup>2</sup> Final Report of the Mixed Committee of the League of Nations: *THE RELATION OF NUTRITION TO HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC POLICY*. 327 pp. Series of League of Nations Publications, Geneva. II. Economic and Financial. 1937. II.A. 10. New York, Columbia University Press, 1937. \$2.00