

ANNOTATIONS

MY NAME IS LEGION¹

THIS book, which represents the first of three volumes which are planned to report the findings of Stirling County, offers a psychopathological and social framework for the study of the etiology of psychiatric disorders. Dr. Leighton points out that the study is concerned with the effects of environment on psychiatric disorders rather than with the effects of disorders on society and culture. Considering the problems of definition and identification of psychiatric phenomena, the emphasis at present needs to be placed on disorder rather than on health.

The first few chapters offer an orientation to the various patterns of psychiatric disorder. The reader becomes familiar with the setting of a town in Stirling County where a successful farmer, who is a husband, father and son, develops an anxiety neurosis. This fictional case study makes it easy for the reader to get a concrete picture of the relationship of psychiatric disorders to environment.

In the second part of the book, the relation of psychiatric disorders and socio-cultural environment is presented. A very stimulating chapter is the one in which the author discusses his concept of sentiments. To a psychiatrist this chapter, which discusses simple sentiments as well as a complex of sentiments, is exceedingly valuable. It fills a gap in psychopathology, offering not only an understanding of socio-cultural influences on the individual but also stimulating possibilities for psychotherapeutic guidance. Each chapter has an excellent review of literature. The detailed discussions of the concept of sentiments of previous authors is especially worth while.

¹ Leighton, Alexander, H.: *MY NAME IS LEGION*. New York, Basic Books, Inc., 1959.

The third part of the book offers a plan for research. The author presents a concept of social disintegration as a basis for comparing communities. From such a point of view, French and English communities in this Nova Scotian county are compared. The cultural differences in these two groups of population are marked in Stirling County because of distinctive geographic boundaries. Stress factors become recognizable in the degree of disintegration of the community. The frequency of psychiatric disorders may be related to individual stress. It should become possible to determine to what extent the culture and degree of integration of a community make a difference to individual mental health.

This book, which offers a foundation for a theory of man in relation to culture, is well written and it is easy for the reader to obtain a grasp of the essential concepts of psychiatric disorder and the meaning in socio-cultural environment. The first volume of this three-volume study makes one wait impatiently for the remaining two volumes which will present in detail the socio-cultural environment and the analysis of the prevalent data.

The life in this beautifully-described county is one of quietude but to the discerning reader, from the beginning of the book, the stress of social forces becomes obvious; and increasingly so as he progresses in his reading. This slowly changing county was an excellent place to carry out basic investigations. However, the reader must keep in mind that he cannot merely transcribe the results of this study to another group, e.g., in various parts of the United States. Some of the fundamental findings, presented by Dr. Leighton, remain the same for human beings living anywhere. Other findings will apply to people in similar cultures only, and still others, to people in rural settings. Finally, a large group is pertinent to Stirling County. At the present state of our knowledge, it is most difficult to single out these data in their correct evaluation. This knowledge will, however, be essential for the broad conclusions which can be used for the planning of improving mental health. Without such knowledge, all planning will remain on the basis of clinical psychiatric knowledge with the inherent danger of hazardous generalizations.

Dr. Leighton's knowledge of psychiatry, sociology and cultural anthropology, and his broad interests in and activity with individuals and groups in rural and urban society, and in intercultural relations, should make his future contributions most valuable. We should therefore expect him to increase our fundamental knowledge about the etiology of psychiatric disorders and their prevention.

OSKAR DIETHELM, M.D.

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PEOPLE, JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT¹

THE title of this volume, which is a case history of Puerto Rico, has been most happily chosen. It exactly describes the author's interests and the kinds of material that he presents for this particular underdeveloped area. His basic tenet is that "the most significant economic growth is that which affects the individuals of the Nation" (p. 5). It is essential, therefore, that the increase in national product be reflected in the improved position of significantly large numbers of individuals, specifically in terms of more and better job opportunities in nonfarm employment. To what extent the Puerto Rican "Operation Bootstrap" has accomplished this objective and what the future prospects are the reader can determine on the basis of a wealth of material on economic changes, population growth, working force changes, industrial and occupational changes, wages and productivity, and school attendance.

In addition to the compilation of this demographic and economic history of Puerto Rico, Jaffe regards as an essential purpose of his study provision of guide lines for other underdeveloped areas on the threshold of economic development. But, as he is forced to point out again and again, Puerto Rico is a special case. Her close connection with the mainland United States has given her many advantages, among them investment capital, social welfare payments and other individual cash benefits, and a home for unlimited numbers of her

¹ Jaffe, A. J.: *PEOPLE, JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*. Glencoe, Illinois, The Free Press, 1959. 381 pp. \$6.00.