Book Reviews

The Foreign Worker. Adaptation to Industrial Work and Urban Life. By R. Descloîtres. (Pp. 173; 17s. 6d.) Paris: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. 1967.

I found this book absorbing. Not so much that it says anything new but that it puts the problem of the migrant worker in general and statistical terms in a more European perspective than we are accustomed to thinking of it. Preoccupied as we are with our own migrant problem, we tend to forget that other European countries have similar difficulties of social and occupational adaptation of foreign workers.

International migration is one form of labour mobility which is inevitable in a world of rapidly changing technology and unequal distribution of personal and technical resources and the OECD has been concerned through its Manpower Department with the investigation of various aspects of the problem. Other reports in this series have dealt with the redeployment of rural workers. This one concentrates on the nature of foreign labour migration within and to Europe. Only one-seventh of the migrants speak the language of the host country; one in three is illiterate and about two-thirds come from traditional rural societies. Many have different religious affiliations while differences in colour and culture create suspicion and fear which raise barriers between them and the population of their adopted country.

The book is in two parts. The first, *Social Adaptation of Foreign Workers*, outlines the economic background to the history of migration and presents statistical and geographical information. It describes the main difficulties in the way of social adaptation.

The second part, *Policies and Measures to Assist the Adaptation of Foreigners to Social Environment*, is much larger. It deals first of all with the measures taken in the home country to prepare the migrant for his future employment and goes on to discuss recruiting policies by employers and public services. The third chapter in this section describes methods of initiation into the language of the host country. Further sections deal with social welfare policies, the first contact with industrial work, vocational training, and integration into working life. The final section deals with *Policies and Measures for Adaptation to Urban Environment* and includes living accommodation, family reunion and adaptation, and the use of leisure and culture.

Many industrial physicians have to deal with the effects of migration and this book is an excellent introduction to the problem.

ROBERT MURRAY

Student Health Services in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. By Alex Mair. (Pp. 236; 42s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1967.

There is a possible danger that universities may develop their student health services along wrong lines and that they may use money and medical manpower both extravagantly and incorrectly. This thesis is presented and thoroughly examined in Professor Mair's book.

The author presents a short history of the development of Student Health Services which had their beginnings in the movement for mass physical education (based on gymnasia) which occurred in Northern Europe and the United States of America in the first half of the 19th century. Student health services as we know them in this country arrived very much later. It was not until after the last war that the aims of such services were given in a report of the Royal College of Physicians (1947) in which it is stated that these university health officers should do for universities very much what industrial medical officers were beginning to do for industry.

Since that time most universities have set up student health services, and the author has gone to great trouble to secure details of the scope of the various services. This was done by questionnaire in 1961. He finds great diversity in what is provided. Examination of the ratio of doctors to students shows great disparity—Cambridge 1:9,000, Glasgow 1:4,200, Manchester 1:3,600 (all essentially preventive services). This ratio is claimed to be more realistic than the 1:700 and 1:1000 (three instances) found in other services where comprehensive treatment was given.

The later sections of the book contain a critical appraisal of the data collected and a discussion on the future lines of development of our university health services. The author presses for the much greater use of properly trained nurses which the survey showed to be very much under strength. Pre-entry medical examinations are condemned and a plea is entered for the proper use of school records and case histories. Compulsory mass miniature radiography is strongly condemned and the importance of hygiene and particularly canteen supervision is stressed. The method of dealing with the illness of students in lodgings and flats as well as in hostels is realistically discussed. Professor Mair makes a strong case for a preventive rather than a curative service and sets out in detail the main functions of a student health service as he sees them.

It is generally admitted, however, that much of the