The Skills of Interviewing. By Elizabeth Sidney and Margaret Brown. (Pp. xii + 396. 35s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1961.

This is one of the most useful and authoritative books on interviewing that has come the way of the reviewers, who spend much of their time as interviewers for a large public authority. It is readable, free from jargon, and evidently based on the authors' wide experience. It also has the merit that its eminently practical advice is related to a solid foundation of theory, of which one of the early chapters on the development of personality is a convincing example.

Although much of the book is concerned with employment interviewing, it has equally useful chapters on other interviewing situations which help to make it more comprehensive than most of its contemporaries. It has as much significance for the line manager, social worker, or anyone else who has the problem of getting information or obtaining results by personal interviews, as it has for the personnel officer. It should be on the reading list of every student of personnel management.

There are some minor criticisms. In a few places the authors' interest in the technicalities of teaching the skills of interviewing (they are both lecturers at one of the major Polytechnics in London) leads to a few digressions and occasional detail with which the general reader will not be much concerned. The bibliographical references would be more useful if the sources were shown by footnotes on each page instead of at the end of the chapters.

K. R. THOMAS and J. A. NEALE

Good Health in the Tropics: Advice to Travellers and Settlers. By W. H. Jopling. (Pp. 31. 3s. 6d.) Bristol: John Wright. 1961.

This is an interesting and helpful little book written for the layman who is going to the tropics. It contains a wealth of sound information on a variety of relevant topics.

Near the beginning, the booklet carries a clear account of immunization procedures for vaccinations that are compulsory and those that are only advisable. If there is criticism of this section it might be on the grounds that some would prefer to see even greater emphasis laid on the need for poliomyelitis vaccination.

There follow comprehensive paragraphs on acclimatization, food, water, milk, bathing, and protection from biting insects. The subsequent section is devoted to the health of the skin, and some reference to external ear troubles would have been welcome at this point.

Passing to malaria prevention, one might criticize the rather low dosage of proguanil ("paludrine") recommended, but otherwise the information here is clear and concise.

In a booklet of this size the main criticism is likely to be on the score of what has been left out rather than what is included. While recognizing the need for brevity, a further paragraph specifically devoted to the health of mothers and babies would have been welcome. To my mind problems in this field are of paramount importance

and few men settle down to work abroad happily if there are worries over the health of their wives and children.

Bearing in mind for whom this booklet is intended, it can be recommended as a well worth-while production.

D. S. F. ROBERTSON

Dental Health and the Dental Services. An Assessment of Available Data. A Report prepared for the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust by C. A. Moser, Kathleen Gales, and P. W. R. Morpurgo. (Pp. 64; with tables. 5s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1962.

As one would expect from the authors this is an impeccable and sound assessment of dental health and treatment in the community. Agreeably surprising is that the same lack of bias is maintained in their statement "we know the country needs dentists more urgently than it needs dental statistics" as in their formal dealing with figures.

It is modestly claimed that this work may have a secondary usefulness in methodology: it certainly has, and is an example of the amount of reliance which can be placed on incomplete or dubious statistics, but nowhere is the good made the enemy of the best.

The Dental Estimates Board can offer exact figures on treatment of national health service, but not private patients, but can offer no guidance on the prevalence of dental disease. Most of this knowledge comes from schoolchildren and *ad hoc* surveys particularly in relation to fluoridation. Nearly all the information is on caries and not on periodontal disease or malocclusion. The DMF (decayed, missing, filled) index comes in for criticism as the extent of the decay is not noted and, for policy purposes, the M and F Groups have already had treatment.

All aspects are covered: health education, cost of the national health service, and time lost from work for treatment. The Dental Schools are too small, and it will be several years before the desired 1,000 student places are available: research facilities are very poor, and research workers cannot be enticed into this field. Manpower is discussed at length and status and remuneration considered. All fields of activity of dentists are mentioned, although the industrial dentist gets (rightly) only five lines as he is usually employed in the national health service anyway. In their conclusions, the writers claim that for policy there is a great need to think about standards, particularly of reasonable dental health and treatment. A survey such as the Survey of Sickness (1944-1952) of the General Registry Office would be expensive, and work done by a random sample of dentists in general practice might yield adequate information. Alternatively, random samples of the public by age groups might be more fruitful. Finally a plea is made for a study on the lines of Lord Taylor's "Good General Practice".

This is not merely a very valuable assessment of dental matters; it is a blue-print for similar studies in sister services: future workers in such fields using retrospective inquiries will find much of the work and most of the thinking already done for them.

J. P. W. HUGHES