BOOK REVIEWS

NURSING IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Bethel J. McGrath

The Commonwealth Fund

(Geoffrey Cumberlege. Oxford University Press. 1946.
Pp. 356. 16s. 6d.)

Mrs. McGrath says in her preface that the most important ingredient in the making of an industrial nurse is a superior nurse. If such a nurse is looking for first-class guidance in her special subject, here it is. It is unlikely that any earlier book has been able to offer her so much of value in one volume, and it is to be hoped that the price will not be too much for her. The scope is so wide that if a nurse were to be employed by a small firm and told she was expected to organize an efficient first aid and health service for the factory, with the minimum of qualified medical aid, there could hardly be any situation in which she need feel at a loss. After a chapter on the history of industrial nursing, there is an invaluable one on the general organization of an industrial undertaking, which acts as an introduction to a third on the relationships of the nurse to employers and employed; to win the confidence of both may at first be the hardest part of a nurse's task, and the author offers good sense and sound psychology, illustrated with practical examples and some delightful epigrams. The chapter headings suggest that the subject is treated on general lines without regard to practicalities, but the reverse is true. Under such a heading as 'physical facilities of the industrial health service' is to be found a discussion of the most appropriate name for the factory medical department, the space and layout it needs, and its construction and lighting. Under the heading of 'nutrition' come such practical matters as 'food fads,' the organization of canteens, and the amount of furniture required. 'Mental hygiene' is the heading of a chapter dealing largely with misfits and people with financial or family worries, who may behave unusually and need special help. There are sections on occupational and non-occupational diseases and accidents, on problems peculiar to women in industry, and on the quick detection of common infectious diseases and their control; the pages on the problems of the tuberculous are noteworthy. The last chapters deal with records and reports, with workmen's compensation, and with welfare activities; but these are written from an American viewpoint and do not strictly apply to British methods and legislation. There are useful appendices on surgery equipment, and standing orders for nurses to cover certain specific injuries and contingencies. No book could be more confidently recommended to a nurse in industry, whatever her experience or status, to those who are considering entering the field after their hospital training is over, or to industrial medical officers in search of fresh ideas to enhance the efficiency of their works medical department.

J. N. Agate.

HANDBOOK OF THE SCIENTIFIC MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN, LTD.

This privately published handbook gives information about the Officers of the Association, its aims, govern-

ment, and organization. There follows a short review of the growth of the British scientific instrument making industry from the time of Leonard Digges, who first made a theodolite some time before 1571; many names famous amongst chemists and physicists appear. The bulk of this slim volume is made up of an alphabetical list of the forms of scientific apparatus manufactured by the member firms of the Association, and of a collection of trade announcements of these various firms. The manufacturer who specializes in making any particular piece of physical, chemical, medical, or other laboratory apparatus can be traced at a glance. This should greatly assist research and teaching departments. The handbook appears to have a restricted circulation but inquiries may be addressed to the Association's Secretaries, Messrs. Binder, Hamlyn and Co., River Plate House, 12/13 South Place, London, E.C.2.

J. N. Agate.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE 1947

Advisory Editor, The Rt. Hon. Lord Horder,
G.C.V.O., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.

(Todd Publishing Co. Ltd., London. Pp. 527.
Price 25s.)

This annual reference book has again made its appearance, and the information in it provides much which must give thinking people food for reflection. It is common knowledge that there is a rapidly growing horde of civil servants, and this book gives some indication of the extent to which this parasite mass is infiltrating the sphere of health and social welfare. It would be valuable information if, in future years, we could be told the number of forms which each of these departments issues. There are some 64 pages devoted to lists of officially appointed committees of various varieties. We can learn that the Medical Advisory Board of the Royal Air Force has not met since the outbreak of war; and can, therefore, appreciate the excellent advertisement value of these committees both to departments and individuals. We might be able better to assess the value of each and all of them if we were informed how often they met and were given the attendance of individual members. Some names appear so frequently that either their owners must be whole-time committee men, or else the committees serve no useful purpose. We take special interest in three of these committees related to industrial medicine—the Industrial Health Advisory Committee, the Industrial Health Research Board, the National Advisory Council under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944; their personnel is given at length, but there is no evidence that any of them have ever contributed anything useful to the community. We would ask our readers seriously to consider them. Doubtless their service is confidential, and may be they are useful scapegoats in adversity.

Of the book itself, its format is the same as in previous years, with the same degree of accuracy and inaccuracy. The Medical Research Council is still divorced throughout from its sister organization, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and while the *Lancet* has been included in the list of medical periodicals, the Editor of the *B.M.J.* is not yet included in the section of the book