

The Anesthesiologist's Bookshelf

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Medicine and the State. BY MATTHEW J. LYNCH, M.D., M.R.C.P. London, F.A.C.P., AND STANLEY S. RAPHAEL, M.B., B.S., London. Departments of Pathology, Sudbury General Hospital and Sudbury Memorial Hospital, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. Cloth. \$9.75. Pp. 449, with 67 tables. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1963.

The purposes of this book are "an objective study and concise source of reference, as distinct from a work based on emotion, idealism or political theories." The preface states "It is more than likely that the medical professions of North America will—in the not too distant future—find themselves in the front line of the ideologic battle between the planned and the free societies."

The problems in Germany and Austria, U.S.S.R., Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden are presented. *Part Two* considers appraisals, patient-doctor relationship, malingering, distribution of physicians, vital and disease statistics, social and economic status, medical emigration and medical research, while the final section contains "Conclusions."

This detailed study is replete with data and references, is exceptionally well documented and appears purely analytical and impartial. Only in the conclusions do the authors show objection to socialized medicine. They did so on the merits and demerits of planned medical services or state medical planning for medical care, in contrast to free enterprise. They state on page 411, "Socialized medical systems have not solved the problem of distribution of physicians—either specialist or generalist." "The system which appears to show the greatest waste and inefficiency is the completely socialized one of the U.S.S.R." On the next page "Indeed, there is more than a suggestion that the State systems result in inferior medical care and inferior health statistics. Most surprising of all perhaps, is the fact that socialized medicine appears to fail most in the very field on which its most sanguine claims are based, *i.e.*, preventive medicine." On page 417, "No longer can it be concealed or doubted that the totally planned societies have failed in fulfilling basic human aspirations and needs; they have failed in all sectors—with one exception, *i.e.*, the ability to threaten freedom." They further point out that planning to be efficient would have to eliminate human factors, anticipate economic changes, foresee the changes in medical practices and require the patient's acceptabilities to these changes.

On page 421, one reads, "In the preceding chapter, we have observed that 'the ideal society is one whose members are free, educated and economically self-sufficient to the point that they can purchase with discrimination on an open market all the goods and services of which they have need.'" "In such a society, liberty and responsibility, measure for measure, are the hall-marks of the good citizen and incentives and encouragement should be the guiding principles upon which all social measures are based." The authors add that those who can care for themselves should be encouraged to do so. This includes foresighted measures as protections. Only when unfortunate minorities have adverse situations does this permit society's support. This protection and aid by the total group of society must be assured. It is projected that these unfortunate people would constitute roughly 5 per cent.

This book is recommended enthusiastically for all people in medical science, to acquaint themselves with the social, economic and political problems of the day, and also for sociologists, economists and educators, in order that these leaders have the facts and resource to references. This is a scientific study thoroughly inclusive, impartially written, and listed as must reading for all those who want facts.

H. CLOSE HESSELTINE, M.D.

Joseph Priestley. Selections from His Writings. EDITED BY IRA V. BROWN, Professor of American History, The Pennsylvania State University. Cloth. \$5.50. Pp. 343 with one illustration. The Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pennsylvania, 1962.

This book contains an unusually interesting collection of long out of print writings of Joseph Priestley, carefully selected from lectures, essays, memoirs and letters now in possession of the Pattie Library of the Pennsylvania State University. The amazingly diversified scope of interests, tremendous drive, extensive knowledge, strong convictions, philosophical acumen, penetrating insight, and investigative ability of this outstanding scholar, scientist, educator and religious leader are revealed in this fascinating publication. The reader is exposed to a rich historical review and timely educational philosophy. His writings are replete with profound pronouncements pertaining to human nature, art, government, education and a multitude of other disciplines. A wealth of vital facts and sound theories are most attractively presented.