

series we have well-written conclusions, such as the author's confirmation that in Russia there had been a dilemma between religious fanaticism and scientific thought.

The same author is then concerned with Poland, and one man stands out, namely Ochorowicz; he was of course wrong in his assumption that magnets are influenced by the CNS, but he was also right in his theory of electrical changes taking place in muscles; a man who did serious research on over 700 patients must be taken seriously. His major work *Mental Suggestion* became a classic.

Dr. Leppo (translated by Dr. Dingwall) writes about Italy and hypnotism. Here naturally anything which was not acceptable to the Vatican was out, and it needed a brave man like Guidi to start raising a plant on such barren soil. It is inevitable that we come up against Lombroso who, of course, supported hypnotism. There was in fact a good deal of support, but also many doubters like Marcelli who wanted scientific confirmation. The authorities in Italy forbade public displays of hypnotism in 1886; it took us a long time to follow this lead.

We have many more names in Italy and many more experiments but they are unfortunately mostly anecdotal, as Dr. Dingwall points out in his conclusions.

The juxtaposition of two such opposite mentalities as the Russian and Italian produces a challenging book, and, as in his previous two volumes, Dr. Dingwall has maintained the high, impeccable standard of his series.

G. C. HELLER.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES

**Commitment to Welfare.** By RICHARD M. TITMUS.  
London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1968.  
Pp. 272. Price 30s.

This book contains a number of essays, including some not previously published. They are grouped under four headings, social administration, including the place of teaching and research; health and welfare; issues of redistribution, and lastly some current dilemmas of medical care. Many of the essays are based on lectures given to a variety of audiences at home and overseas. Most of these make fascinating reading and one suspects must have had considerable impact on the audience at the time, but it is inevitable that there is a certain amount of repetition, both in the reiteration of the author's philosophy and in his practical illustrations.

It is a tribute to the author that he makes interesting a subject which could be very dull. Woolly thinking on the Welfare State and its effects is

challenged by many of the facts now available. For example, it is easy to assume that the health service has led to great improvements for the low income groups. In some measure this may be true, but since the higher income groups know how to make better use of the service they tend to receive more specialist attention, occupy more of the beds in better equipped and staffed hospitals, have better maternity care and are more likely to get psychiatric help and psychotherapy.

Most of the chapters are self-contained, and anyone considering planning for geriatric services could read, for example, Chapter VIII with immediate benefit, though I have no doubt he would feel compelled to read the rest of the book. Similarly, those concerned with children's services would find a remarkable condensation of information, together with some stimulating comments in the chapter on child poverty and child endowment. Perhaps it is still not generally known that the commonest cause of poverty next to old age is the large family, and that some surveys suggest the diet of large families has actually fallen in recent years.

This book can be warmly recommended to a wide professional audience, and, indeed, to all those who are concerned with social organizations, not only in theory but in their practical application, and this must include every doctor, social worker and administrator. The issues concerned affect everyone.

A. A. BAKER.

#### NURSING

**Psychosocial Nursing—Studies from the Cassel Hospital.** Edited by ELIZABETH BARNES.  
London: Tavistock Publications Ltd. 1968.  
Pp. 316. Price 27s. 6d.

This volume consists of a group of papers written by the medical and nursing staff of the Cassel Hospital over the period 1946–67, and was compiled as a tribute to Tom Main, the Medical Director. It presents the lines of thought and study pursued at the hospital and reflects the development which took place during this period, emphasizing changes in therapeutic organization and training programmes for the nursing staff.

The book consists of 28 papers (written by 14 contributors), and is divided into five parts. Relevant bibliographies are included and interesting useful editorial comments by Elizabeth Barnes summarize lucidly the theme in each part. There are several classical papers which still make interesting reading and are appropriate for the present day. This applies especially to Main's initial description of the hospital