

frequency in the incidence of mental illness in different settings and the sociological approach to problems marginal to mental disorder. It suggests the 'failure of society to provide adequately for the social roles essential to the mental health of its members' in a changing culture and presses the need for closer communication between sociologist and psychiatrist in research and in the Mental Hygiene movement.

In so lengthy a book it is impossible to do more than touch on those papers which stimulate special personal interest. The concept of psychopathy as primarily a deficiency in role-playing ability and the study of Albert Ritter, a schizophrenic who found himself a role which, while satisfying his personal needs, was out of harmony with the 'shared order of normal persons' and thus led to his being committed, both awaken new interest in the social significance of and the individual's elected role in such disorders. The study of the roles which different members of staff may play in the community structure of a mental hospital and the suggestion that 'anxious authority can be more detrimental to hospital atmosphere than anxious patients' is a challenge to each worker to consider his role in the structure of his own hospital community.

The paper on psychiatry in prison is a devastating criticism of the inability of the psychiatrist to establish his role satisfactorily and have it accepted by other disciplines in the setting of a penological institution and it would be interesting to know how far the experience of English psychiatrists is similar. It would be most interesting to know, for example, whether the finding that the highest rates of social problems and mental disorders both occur where there is the lowest degree of social organisation is true of this country and whether, in a Welfare State, it is still true that types of psychiatric disorder and the ways in which patients are treated are associated with class.

This is a publication which stimulates curiosity and thought about the significance of the mentally disordered individual in modern society, society's part in the genesis of his illness and how far society itself should in fact be regarded as the patient.

M. E. STOCKBRIDGE.

**Prescription for Survival.** By Brock Chisholm. Columbia University Press, New York 1957. 92 pp. \$2.50. London: Oxford University Press. 20s.

This small book contains four lectures given by Dr. Chisholm at Columbia University.

It cannot be recommended too highly. It will take about half an hour to read, but many hours can well be spent in considering the multitude of points made in the author's usual crystal clear yet provocative manner.

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