

impact not only in Australia and in this country, in which already the practices of psychiatry have been substantially brought into line with the teachings offered by Dr. Dax, but also in the backward countries who are in the process of setting up services to deal with this ever growing problem of civilisation. **G. D. Morgan**

The Citizen and Mental Care. (Published by National Council of Social Service. 1/-.)

This pamphlet, on the production of which the N.A.M.H. was very happy to be consulted, is subtitled "Some Questions Answered". As the foreword explains it "has been prepared to meet a need which has become apparent through problems brought to Citizens' Advice Bureaux".

It does not attempt to do more than pinpoint a number of problems arising when there is mental disorder in the family, but the range of 37 questions and answers is wide and carefully selected.

Questions dealt with include "How is treatment for mental disorder arranged?" "Can the mental welfare officer call to see the patient against his will?" "If the local authority appoints a guardian, will anybody make sure that the patient is properly cared for?" "What happens when children are not considered suitable for school? Is there some other way of caring for and training them?" "Is any kind of help available for parents who look after their mentally disordered children at home?" "What legal obligation is there on a relative to care for a patient discharged from hospital?" "If a mentally disordered person cannot take ordinary work, is there any way of helping him to occupy himself?" "Supposing that somebody living alone is suddenly sent to hospital, what happens to his home and all the things in it?"

The pamphlet will prove invaluable to members of the public. Most useful of all, perhaps, is the fact that practical suggestions are given where further advice can be sought.

Beryl Cross

Hebraic Civilisation and the Science of Man. Second Mary Hemingway Rees Memorial Lecture by Henri Baruk. (Translated by Philip Polack). (H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd., for World Federation for Mental Health. 5s. pp. 76.)

We are told in the preface to this publication, contributed by Dr. E. E. Krapf, that Prof. Baruk is known as the "father of moral psychiatry", and even the most cursory reading will show the reason for his having won this reputation.

In an absorbingly interesting introduction he records what led him to devote his attention to Hebraic civilisation, following on his appointment of medical superintendent of the Maison Nationale de Charenton, Paris, in 1931, at a time when staff morale was at its lowest under the threat of ultimate abolition. After three years of unceasing effort and immense difficulties, he succeeded in replacing "despotic self-seeking by impartial inquiry and the unflinching search for truth".

This experience of the havoc wrought in a community by the lack of any sense of justice and truth so impressed him that he determined to learn Hebrew in order to study the Old Testament, the Torah and other relevant literature, since he found here the record of a civilisation possessing a formulated "science of man" based on the concept of Unity of the individual and society "assured by the internal inspiration which distinguishes good from evil, the inspiration of God that is immanent in the heart of each one of us, defending truth, choosing between good and evil".

The exposition of his theme with the psychological implications of the laws and traditions of the Hebrews from the time of Abraham onwards, is learned, brilliant and eminently readable. It should have the effect of sending the serious student back to the Old Testament—too often set aside as being without relevance to present day problems and unconcerned with "mental health". Moreover, it contains—in addition to valuable factual information—so rich a store of ideas and reflections that it would form an admirable subject for group discussion.

A. L. Hargrove