

may find the book rather too comprehensive and too expensive.

The opening chapter on health and welfare (despite the large number of volunteers in that field) seems too detailed, in contrast to subsequent chapters which make easier reading. Inevitably, Lady Morris has had to cope with the problem of writing about a rapidly changing scene. The chapter on prisoners and ex-prisoners, for example, is already somewhat dated and, in places, misleading. But these are minor criticisms of a book which deserves to be well used, and complements the recent Aves Report.

Hugh Barr

Man, medicine and morality

by *A. E. Clark Kennedy*
Faber, 40s.

THE NEW techniques of organ transplantation, fertility control, psychopharmacology and so on, dramatise the moral and social dilemmas that have always faced doctors. In his latest book, Dr. Clark Kennedy describes man as a biological system functioning in a sociological one. To quote the dust cover, the author 'states the problem... leaving the reader to form his own opinions'. So scrupulous has he been, however, in avoiding the intrusion of his own prejudices, that much of the sharpness of contemporary debate is blunted by the reasonableness of the exposition.

The author ranges widely in his approach but it was disappointing in the passages dealing with contraception, sterilisation and termination of pregnancy, that while the legal, social and physiological aspects are fully dealt with, remarkably little is said about the psychological sequelae. The startling information that termination of pregnancy after the third month can only be achieved by removing the uterus (clearly the word intended was 'opening') should be corrected in the next reprint.

Dr. Clark Kennedy's picture of general practice is depressingly inaccurate: the general practitioner, struggling against his patients' demands for tonics and sleeping pills, x-rays and sick certificates, is

a strangely old-fashioned caricature to find in so up-to-date a book.

Similarly, the statement that 'practical medicine can only be taught in the wards and out-patient department of the hospital' must be challenged in an era when the vast teaching potential of general practice is at last beginning to be explored by the medical schools. In spite of these blemishes, the book has much to commend it. The moral problems that face doctors, in possession of ever increasingly powerful tools with which to intervene in the lives of their patients, are here presented with all the authority and clarity which we expect from so revered a medical teacher.

Marshall Marinker

BRIEFS

Roles and relationships

by *Ralph Ruddock*
Routledge and Kegan Paul,
18s. (9s. pb)

IN THE Library of Social Work series, this introductory book covers the area at which society and the individual meet, taking a psycho-dynamic view of the individual and relationships. This approach enables the practising social worker to assess more easily the significance of role behaviour in personal relationships. Mr. Ruddock also considers the important question of whether the use of role terminology in any way jeopardises our treatment of and attitude towards other human beings.

Medicine in metamorphosis

by *Martti Siirala*
Tavistock, 38s.

THE PRACTICE of medicine is traditionally considered to be the objective treatment of the unwell by those who are themselves healthy. The author challenges the

conventional medical practice of 'locating' an illness or pathological process in a specific symptom. Illness, he contends, is existentially complex: itself a symptom of the lack of integration between the individual, his community, and his total environment.

The author's position in this study derives mainly from his clinical experience in the field of speech disturbances particularly in children. A broad medico-philosophical position is based on the view that the development of speech is a fundamental factor in man's assimilation of himself and in his relation to the outside world.

An approach to community mental health

by *Gerald Caplan*
Tavistock, 21s.

A PAPER-BACK edition of the now famous book on a systematic approach to the prevention of mental disorder. Proposes a strategy for planning a community programme of primary prevention. This involves both inducing change by administration action and affecting individuals in crisis either by direct intervention of mental health specialists or through the mediation of 'caretaking' agents such as doctors, nurses, teachers and clergymen. The theoretical basis of preventive intervention is discussed, examples of dealing with crisis situations are given, and the roles of various caretaking agencies are examined.

Gifted children and the Brentwood Experiment

by *S. A. Bridges*
Pitman, 25s.

INVESTIGATES THE problem of children with I.Q.s of over 160, and reviews the pioneer work undertaken at Brentwood College of Education. Emphasis is given to the possible ways of dealing with the problems created by these children and to the kind of work that may be suitable in the classroom. A book to cause many to re-examine their methods of teaching the gifted whilst offering invaluable assistance to many more.