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EMPIRE SOCIAL HYGIENE YEAR BOOK. (Messrs. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 15s.)

THE British Social Hygiene Council are to be congratulated on the first annual edition of the "Empire Social Hygiene Year Book, 1934." It is a valuable work of reference which should be on the book shelf of all interested in social hygiene, but unlike most works of reference, it contains also sections which should be read as soon as it comes into the possession of its owner.

The book comprises a short preface by the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., a foreword on imperial citizenship by Sir Basil Blackett, the President of the Council, a survey of the principal facts and figures which the student of social hygiene would desire to know for all parts of the Empire, and concludes with a series of fourteen most valuable special articles by well-known experts covering a wide range of subjects, including biological teaching, the film in education, administration of schemes for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases, prostitution, traffic in women and children, the Brussels agreement for the free treatment of seamen suffering from venereal disease, and the work of the Union Internationale Contre le P^{er}il V^{er}erien. There is also a useful list giving the names and addresses of British and International Voluntary Organisations and another containing a bibliography on social hygiene.

The first thing which strikes the reader is the field covered by the term "social hygiene." "Hygiene" is "the science which treats of the preservation of health." "Social" means "concerned with the mutual relationships of men or classes." One of the authors in this book says that social hygiene "implies nothing less than the application of the sciences of Biology, Psychology and Sociology to the promotion of positive health and racial well-being." It is clear, therefore, that when the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases became the British Social Hygiene Council it spread the ambit of its activities to such an extent as to embrace practically any phase of what is known as public health work or preventive medicine. But I gather from a perusal of this book that the Council is interested not only in the work of Public Health Departments *per se* but also, and to a considerable extent, in that of Education Departments. For example, in the section devoted to Uganda, the description of their educational system occupies more than half the space allotted to an account of the Colony.

The information given in the "survey" has evidently been supplied from official sources and, where I was able to test it, is up-to-date and accurate. So far as England and Wales and Scotland are concerned, the officials approached have evidently been the Medical Officer of Health and the Director of Education. For each area the names (but not the addresses) of these officers are given. Then follow the population of the area, the death rate, the infant mortality rate for legitimate

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and illegitimate children separately, and the death rates for pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, also given separately. After that follow the numbers of Health Visitors, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics, the number of Venereal Disease Treatment Centres, together with their addresses and statistics relating to out-patients, but not to in-patients. Next come the numbers of probation officers in the areas, and following that, information relating to the mentally defective, including the number ascertained per 1,000 of the population and the arrangements made for the institutional care of the mentally defective. Finally, there is a section on the teaching of Biology in the schools, and where there is a branch of the British Social Hygiene Council brief particulars are given, including the nature of the work done.

At first sight the selection of data appears to be somewhat curious, although on reflection it will be seen that all have their purpose and none can be said to be outside the scope of "social hygiene" in its true meaning.

The prominence given to biological teaching shows the importance properly attached by the Council to this matter and, speaking generally, the record of what is done indicates that even greater efforts need to be made to develop this branch of work.

National statistics over a term of years are given of infant mortality, new cases of venereal disease treated at Centres, the incidence of venereal disease in the Services of the Crown, deaths from general paralysis of the insane, the blind population, and the notification rate for ophthalmia neonatorum.

So far as I am aware, the information concerning social hygiene which is given here for every part of the Empire, has never been collected together before.

It is impossible in a short review to do justice to the special articles the subjects of which I have enumerated earlier, and when all are so good it would be invidious to select one or two for individual mention, but I must refer to the valuable remarks of Colonel Harrison on the medical staffing of Venereal Diseases Clinics.

The book is of reasonable size (509 pages) and well produced and indexed.

W. A. D.

THE MODERN TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS. By Joseph Earle Moore, M.D. Associate in Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University; Physician in Charge Syphilis Division of the Medical Clinic and Assistant Visiting Physician, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. x + 535 pages. 41 illustrations. 124 tables. Subject Index 4,266 references. Author Index 617 references. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 7 and 8 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London. (Printed in United States of America.) Price 22s. 6d.

SINCE the modern treatment of syphilis dates from the discoveries of the five-year period, 1905-1910, including the demonstration of the causative organism, the development of serologic tests, and the introduction of salvarsan, the quarter of a century which has elapsed from the last of these can reasonably be claimed as sufficient time for just appraisal of accomplishment: and to the general body of medical