

The work will make a most useful source book especially for those not acquainted with Friedreich, or the works of the Laehr's. We can recommend it heartily.

Gütt, Arthur, Linden, Herbert, and Massfeller, Franz. BLUTSCHUTZ UND EHEGESUNDHEITSGESETZ. [München: J. F. Lehmanns Verlag. Mk. 7.20.]

This is a very interesting, unusual and intricate book, a combination of medicine and law. The physical and mental improvement of the German nation is its goal. It is built up on eugenic principles. The ancestral tree back to the grandparents is checked over for hereditary taints in regard to mental and physical diseases. The problem of congenital syphilis has a wide consideration and so has the attempt toward racial "purity" out of which arise laws which forbid the marriage of descendants from an unhealthy stock and so-called "mixed marriages" with other races because history is claimed to teach that in ancient Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome cross-breeding led to degeneration of the race. Germany feels herself in the same danger and more so by her declining birthrate and the prevalence of the one- and two-child system. In 1901 there were 2,032,000 live births in Germany, in 1933 only 957,000!

Sterilization is legal in amentia, schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychoses, genuine epilepsy, hereditary St. Vitus dance, hereditary blindness, deafness, severe congenital deformity and severe alcoholism or drug addiction. These diseases are reportable to the Health Department. Vasectomy may be performed in dangerous sex criminals. Interruption of pregnancy for reasons of health and with the consent of the woman and if the fetus is not viable is also legal. The Health Departments have created advisory bureaus for marital and racial eugenics. Special emphasis is laid upon the fact that there is no intent to hurt the feelings of any race nor of hereditarily tainted individuals but that the striving for the betterment of the race is paramount; that the inhabitants of Germany have to bring the sacrifice to put the well-being and glory of their nation above the interests of the individual.

First admissions to treatment for venereal diseases every year are 225,000 (175,000 for gonorrhea, 47,000 for syphilis, 3,000 for soft chancre). Involuntary marital sterility in both sexes is caused by gonorrhea in about 25 per cent. Syphilis causes about 23,000 stillbirths and about as many deaths from congenital syphilis, annually. Of the living offspring a large proportion is physically, mentally or morally deficient.

A similar social problem arises from open tuberculosis. The death rate is about 40,000 annually. About 50,000 are incapable of work and about ten times as many are partially incapacitated for work. The psychic trauma of the physically ill and their families and the immense financial loss have also to be considered.

In case of suspicion for tuberculosis the diagnosis has to be established at the tuberculosis bureau or by a specialist. The course of social diseases and their danger is discussed in detail in some of the numerous law paragraphs. This serves at the same time the enlightening of the large strata of the public. There are also punishments ready in case of non-observance of the health laws. Grounds for annulment or divorce are illegal marriages, a severe mental disease evident for at least 3 years of married life, etc.

It reads like a law-book, but with medical scientific reasons. All possibilities of most any disease, present and past, are considered as far as they can influence the health of the offspring or the fertility of the marital partners. The marriage health laws even extend over German citizens in foreign countries.

However, it must be understood that all these laws are not carried to the extreme. Milder forms of disease, physical or mental, are not a hindrance to marriage for, because of the widespread of diseases, propagation would become insufficient and the populace would then not listen to medical counsellors.

Health courts have been established to decide in critical cases. As judges are excluded those physicians who have assisted at the health examination and health certificate. From minors the parental consent is required for marriage.

A complete family history, personal history, a complete physical and mental examination—on specially printed blanks similar to the routine hospital blanks, but a combination of general and psychopathic hospital—are required to obtain the health certificate for marriage. This document partly depends upon the truthfulness of the applicant and his or her relatives because of the possibility of concealing mental handicaps.

This book, intended also for reference, is so intricate and detailed that justice cannot be done to it in a brief review. One is impressed by the huge amount of work and time the authors must have spent on it. Of course, it is common sense to realize that eugenics would be the most promising approach of disease and guidance toward better health, physical and mental, but how far eugenics can be carried out in practice on a large scale, this new medical-social experiment in Germany will have to prove.—[KERSCHBAUMER.]

Bryan, William A. ADMINISTRATIVE PSYCHIATRY. [New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc.]

Dr. Bryan is Superintendent of the Worcester State Hospital of Massachusetts, a hospital which for many years has given out much forward-looking psychiatric material.

It might seem to have, from the title alone, a limited field of readers, mental hospital superintendents after all being comparatively