

Book Reviews

RONALD G. WALTON, *Women in social work*, London and Boston, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1975, 8vo, pp. xvi, 308, £6.95.

Dr. Walton is a lecturer at the School of Social Work, University College, Cardiff, and in this book he surveys a topic never dealt with before in such detail. There are three arbitrary sections: women pioneers and early social work organizations, 1860–1914; an emergent profession, 1914–1939; social work 1939–1971, an expanding mixed profession.

The social problems during the period 1860 to 1971 which gave rise to the need for social workers arose from three factors: the increasing population of England and Wales, its industrialization and its urbanization. Government agencies replaced inadequate institutions in the struggle to cope with the resultant social disorganization, and various organizations together with voluntary helpers attempted to cope with social evils. Out of this, social work grew and eventually became a career for women, not, however, without opposition from men. This book's main purpose is to describe and analyse the roles played by women in social work, but without dealing in detail with women's movements. Until recently, when men began to enter the profession, social work was a curiously female dominated activity, and the author discusses this sensibly and unemotionally. He is concerned only with England and Wales, but makes reference to America, which adds depth to his study.

Although a good deal of the book concerns recent events, it will be welcomed by historians of social medicine and social historians, because of the historical background it provides to these topics. It comes up to the present day and looks into the future so it will also be of value to those now involved in social work.

DEREK LLEWELLYN-JONES, *People populating*, London, Faber & Faber, 1975, 8vo, pp. 368, illus., £3.95.

The author is an Australian obstetrician who has already written on women and on *Human reproduction and society*. In the present book he deals with a theme that is becoming increasingly popular: the ecological crisis that man has produced by his rapid multiplication, his increased life expectancy, the environmental pollution he is creating and the possibility of exhausting his supply of mineral and energy resources. In the face of this, can economic growth be sustained? Voicing the unrest are the "doomsday-men" and the opposing "optimistic ostriches". Professor Llewellyn-Jones believes that both these extreme views are in error, but to avoid catastrophe, man must modify or reject certain modern modes of thought in order to control birth rate, to institute ecologically controlled technology, and to replace greed with gratitude.

To identify the problem the author shows in his book how population growth has come about, the ways of measuring it, the factors affecting it and the influence of people on their environment. And in keeping with this message he shows how the current high rate of population growth can be reduced. He writes for the layman in a pleasant style and has references and notes at the end of his book. For the medical historian it should prove to be a valuable and informative work. The problems of today are the products of history, and they can only be understood and tackled effectively by having an understanding of their evolution.