

co-ordinating all that was known of the physical history of the crust of the earth, its physiognomy and its anatomy. The first part of the first volume of the "Antlitz" appeared in 1883 and was picked up almost immediately by de Margerie in a shop in Zurich. This first volume was completed in December 1884, and by April 1885 de Margerie had published a review. The second volume of the "Antlitz" appeared in 1888, and the same year de Margerie concluded a short notice with the words: "Nous appelons de tous nos vœux une traduction française pour cette œuvre capitale".

The idea received strong support, but negotiations dragged on. The first publisher approached decided after inquiry that he would not be able to dispose of more than three hundred copies. Fortunately, Armand Colin was more optimistic. Publication was agreed in 1893, and the three volumes of the completed translation appeared between 1897 and 1918. The demand has already reached 18,000 copies!

Let us quote from a review in *Nature* by Sollas (1919): "It is much more than a translation; by the addition of numerous footnotes and illustrations it becomes a new edition. . . . Suess introduced only 168 figures into the text. The French have given us more than thrice the number (in all 552 figures). . . . The added notes . . . are of great value; they bring the bibliographical references up to date, and when necessary point out how far the author's conclusions must be modified in the light of later knowledge." Sollas adds that the English edition "contains no new matter". This is very generous, for the English edition was published, during 1904-9, under his own direction, and has proved of very great value to English-speaking readers. At the same time, "La Face de la Terre" is a unique production to which the present reviewer, among others, attributes his allegiance to the science of geology. In its preparation de Margerie had collaborators, but his own share was pre-ominent.

E. B. BAILEY.

REBUILDING FAMILY LIFE

Rebuilding Family Life in the Post-War World

An Enquiry with Recommendations. Edited by Sir James Marchant. By Lord Horder, R. M. Titmuss, W. B. Reddaway, Sir John Boyd Orr, Prof. F. A. E. Crew, Sir Arthur MacNalty, Dr. Margaret Jackson, Dr. Eliot Slater, Dr. Grace Leybourne-White and the Rt. Rev. Dr. E. J. Hagan. Pp. 138. (London: Odhams Press, Ltd., 1945.) 2s.

ONE of the most interesting features of contemporary thought is the virtual unanimity with which importance is attached to family life and the careful consideration which is being given to its sustenance and rehabilitation. In such consideration this small volume will be most valuable. Rarely, indeed, can so few pages have contained so much solid food for thought and so many valuable suggestions for action.

After a characteristically wise introduction by Lord Horder on the theme that "Mankind is a Collection of Families", Richard Titmuss gives a lucid account of the statistics of parenthood, making it clear that the higher birth-rate of the last few years has been achieved only by 'recouping' from the past and 'stealing' from the future. While handling his demographic indices with dexterity, however, Titmuss remembers that "people do not behave as

averages" and stresses the importance of bringing about a state of affairs in which many more parents will actively desire large families.

How this desire may be fostered by economic and social measures is the problem discussed by W. B. Reddaway. After pointing out that bringing up children costs both money and labour, he urges a co-ordinated effort to reduce the burdens of parenthood. Most of his proposals (such as family allowances payable by the Treasury and improved social attitude towards families) are sure to receive wide support and would help considerably in achieving the desired objective of "making parenthood reasonably attractive".

If family life is the basis of society, food is clearly the basis of family life. It is so, not merely because it provides calories and vitamins but also because "A meal should be the means of a happy reunion of a family in a spirit of harmony". After retelling the dismal story of dietary decline in nineteenth-century Britain, Sir John Boyd Orr comments that "What we should aim at is not so much the building of hospitals to cure disease as the building of children who will not need to go to hospital".

After these socially significant papers, Prof. F. A. E. Crew's somewhat academic outline of the biological aspect of sex inevitably seems something of an intrusion. The main thread, however, is taken up again by Sir Arthur MacNalty, who considers the evil effects of disease on family life, stresses the importance of an extension of maternity and child-welfare work and urges the study of social medicine.

Dr. Margaret Jackson considers the possible causes of the dwindling family and presents the usual factors of economic competition, domestic drudgery, housing difficulties, mass unemployment, etc. Also, however, she detects the underlying spiritual *malaise* of a society with no real faith in its future. In the next paper, Dr. Eliot Slater points out that a Gallup Poll has shown that "Although married people want fewer children nowadays than they used to, they do not want so very few that the race would be in any danger—if they had as many as they wanted", and draws the conclusion that "All that is needed . . . is the right social circumstances for the expressing of this desire". Dr. Slater also makes the interesting suggestion that the million or so British women for whom there are no husbands might be given the opportunity of motherhood, perhaps by artificial insemination.

Dr. Grace Leybourne-White insists upon the necessity for "a real transformation in our State primary schools", "a parity of esteem between the various parts of a State secondary system", "a real democratization of the public schools", and "a completely equal opportunity for all" in the universities and the professions. Only thus, she claims, will the dysgenic effects of high educational costs be overcome. The Right Rev. E. J. Hagan then considers the spiritual aspects of family life, and with most of his thesis there will be general agreement. When, however, he affirms that "to achieve the highest happiness in marriage calls for the exercise of the Christian Faith" one is bound to ask, may not others (Jews, for example) hope for such achievement?

The final paper, by Sir Arthur MacNalty, on the "Influence of War on Family Life", retails the now familiar tale of destruction of lives and homes, disruption of families, weakening of parental control, and so on. It poses the great problem: What are we going to do about it?

CYRIL BIBBY.