

Social Class and Mental Illness

A Community Study. By Prof. August B. Hollingshead and Prof. Fredrick C. Redlich. Pp. xii+442. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1958.) 60s. net.

THIS book is the record of work done jointly between Prof. A. B. Hollingshead, who occupies the chair of sociology at Yale University, and Prof. F. C. Redlich, who is professor of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine.

As might be expected, the research is meticulous and explores a section of psychiatry which has been singularly neglected. Commencing with a history of the New Haven community and revealing interesting details of the earliest members, they then deal with the history of psychiatry there. This brings the book up to the present time and an examination of the problems they have set out to investigate. These are the different classes of society and the nature of the mental and nervous illnesses which are to be found associated with them, how the members of the different classes become patients and how their relatives react to the necessity for psychiatric treatment.

Strangely enough they find that the members of the wealthiest classes tend to be dissatisfied with themselves when they are ill, the middle classes have anxiety symptoms, and the lower class neurotics develop aches and pains. The very lowest class develops behaviour disorders rather than neuroses. Psychotics appear in greater numbers in the lower classes and this seems to be caused not by a downward drift in society but by something else, probably stress and strain, in the environment.

This book is well worth the study of psychiatrists interested in social factors, and it is to be hoped that future work along the same sort of lines will be undertaken in Great Britain. CLIFFORD ALLEN

Tupu-Tupu-Tupu

By Peter Krott. Translated from the German by Edward Fitzgerald. Pp. 232+25 plates. (London: Hutchinson and Co. (Publishers), Ltd., 1958.) 21s. net.

THERE seems to be no limit to the extent man will go in his quest for new knowledge. During the past thirty years the unparalleled discoveries in natural science have been accompanied by investigations in natural history which are themselves tribute to man's curiosity, resource, persistence, patience and courage. Birds and the not-too-dangerous animals, for example, have been observed with such diligence and devotion that many new truths about animal behaviour have been revealed. To join the swelling ranks of this fine army of observers comes Peter Krott, an Austrian who made his home in northern Finland and Sweden and who became captivated by the study of that very dangerous animal, the wolverine, or glutton.

Despite incredible difficulties and much stupid and hostile opposition from so-called 'sportsmen', Krott secured the support of the Swedish Forestry Department to carry out systematic studies of an animal of which little was known other than that in northern mythology it was reputed to be the incarnation of the Devil. Krott showed that the mystery surrounding the wolverine was largely because it lived a much more secluded life than other beasts of prey, was avoided even by powerful animals like the bear and northern lynx because of its fighting

abilities, was capable of considerable domestication if caught young, exhibited ferocious territorial behaviour and would not tolerate other wolverines of the same sex in the territory. The book is well written and the translation from the German owes much to Edward Fitzgerald; it contains some remarkable photographs.

Basic Physics

By Dr. A. R. Meetham. Pp. xi+144. (London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1957.) 21s. net.

DR. A. R. MEETHAM deserves praise for what is indeed a bold departure from the standard method of presentation of physics at the Advanced Level of the General Certificate of Education. He admits, in the preface to his book, that intending university students will need something more advanced, but for the average fifth- and sixth-form pupils many of whom have no intention of making their living by physics and for whom the Advanced Level is the end of their study of the subject, the large number of historical facts, methods, reasons and proofs which they have to memorize, Dr. Meetham maintains, only tend to obscure the basic physical principles. Hence "Basic Physics" is shorn of all these details, representing Advanced Level physics, with everything human, historical and experimental eliminated. Mathematics is not excluded, but is used mainly only to express symbolically the relationships between quantities, and mathematical proofs are deliberately avoided. A glance at the book is sufficient to see that Dr. Meetham knows what he is doing and why, and that his subject-matter is good, sound physics, clearly expressed and well arranged in a connected pattern. However, in many places it becomes so bare that it consists merely of a list of definitions and formulae. It is an excellent book for sixth-form revision and perhaps also for university scholarship candidates. It stimulates thought by its provocative attitude of expression and approach, and its frank re-statement of the fundamental processes of physics, but it is not an Advanced Level text-book of physics. S. WEINTROUB

Communications and Electronics Buyers' Guide,

Who's Who and Reference Book, 1958-9 Edition Edited by C. C. Gee, with the assistance of D. W. Dwyer. Pp. 360+156. (London: Heywood and Co., Ltd., 1958.) 105s.

THIS is a well-produced and well-edited book, large in bulk and price, but full of information likely to be of value to all engaged in electronic work. It covers the whole of electronics, and by including allied industries it is enabled to cover acoustics, materials, etc. The bias is strongly towards what it calls "capital-equipment electronics", and the consumer sector of the industry is only briefly covered since there are other sources of data on this.

The Buyers' Guide Section has several alphabetical indexes, and the first of these—the classified index of products—is probably the most important. Under each product are given the names of the firms manufacturing it. The Who's Who Section may be of some value, but there are better works of this kind. The Reference Section is certainly valuable; the product surveys are probably the most useful part of the whole book. In them, all known products under a heading are tabulated, together with their salient performance characteristics. The book vividly portrays the amazing recent growth of a major industry.

D. G. TUCKER