Prof. Phleger's book is a useful contribution in a very difficult field of study. No great criticism is implied when I suggest that now the first book on the subject has been written a second and more comprehensive one must surely follow. R. H. HEDLEY

ENDEMIC DISEASES IN THE TROPICS

The Control of Disease in the Tropics

A handbook for medical practitioners. By T. H. Davey and W. P. H. Lightbody. Pp. xii+22. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd.) 47s. 6d. net.

SINCE the appearance of the first edition of this book in 1956 it has remained without a serious rival. Books devoted to the treatment of tropical diseases are much more numerous. Does the lack of books on the prevention of disease indicate a lack of interest in this subject in developing countries? If this is so, it is a great pity as the techniques of disease control have developed so rapidly that many of the major endemic diseases are now much more susceptible to attack.

These advances are reflected in the second edition of this book. More emphasis is placed on the treatment of tuberculosis with the new drugs now available. Wide-scale treatment by this method gives hope of eventual control without the need of expensive buildings and equipment. Similarly, the emphasis on the control of leprosy has shifted in line with the success of the sulphonides; segregation is giving way to mass treatment on a wide scale.

The chapters on malaria have, perhaps, not followed the present trends quite so noticeably. A few paragraphs are devoted to the principles and practice of malaria eradication, but this seems scarcely enough for a programme that is operating in malarious countries with an aggregate population of more than a thousand million people. It may be argued that malaria eradication is operated by specialists. It is likely that its very considerable success would be even greater if the medical officer with general public health responsibilities had a better understanding of its methods and problems.

It is unwise to paint too optimistic a picture of the prospects of control of all the great endemic diseases of the tropics. No spectacular advance has been made against schistosomiasis, hookworm and filariasis; methods of control are known but have not been shown to be applicable in practice in many areas in the tropics. It would be useful for a book of this nature to indicate which methods of control are already successful and which require development for effective use on a large scale. An appreciation of this difference is essential for the rational planning of health services.

Two new chapters are included, one on poliomyelitis, which is increasingly being recognized as a problem in the tropics, and the second on health education. This subject, which forms a meeting ground between the physician and the social scientist, and which often suffers from a lack of definition, has been dealt with in a most straightforward manner; the importance of the part to be played by all grades of health workers is emphasized.

Almost every page has been revised in order to bring it up to date. There is no risk in forecasting that this edition will be as successful as the first.

M. J. COLBOURNE

HIGHLAND BRITAIN

The Peak District

By Prof. K. C. Edwards, assisted by Dr. H. H. Swinnerton and R. H. Hall. (The New Naturalist: a Survey of British Natural History.) Pp. xvi+240+28 plates. (London: William Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1962.) 30s. net.

IN the darkest days of the War, almost as a gesture of defiance as well as of faith, began the publication of Collins's *New Naturalist Series*. The first three titles appeared in 1945 and the present volume is No. 44—apart from 18 monographs. The series was an instantaneous success, and the editorial board has never swerved from its original aim of 'maintaining a high standard of accuracy combined with clarity of exposition in presenting the results of modern scientific research' to the British public. Many experienced publishers shook their heads knowingly at this deliberate refusal to 'popularize' science, but how wrong they have been proved. From the beginning it was agreed that there should be a number of regional volumes, interpreting the natural history of the area very widely, and not neglecting man and his activities. The London region was followed by Snowdonia, the Weald and Dartmoor and, in a more general view, the sea coast.

The present volume covers broadly the area of the Peak District National Park—the first to be designated as such under the Act of 1949. The days when one individual could, in the Gilbert White tradition, claim to cover adequately the whole field of natural history—including man—are past, yet a volume written by a team is apt to be irregular and to lack cohesion. The solution here is that Kenneth Edwards, professor of geography in the University of Nottingham, has acted as principal author and as editor. Two leading members of his team, nearly all closely associated with the University or with local institutions, are named on the title-page, but eight others are thanked in the authors' preface for their contributions or assistance.

For more than a quarter of a century, Prof. Edwards, from his base at Nottingham, has explored the Peak District, for the most part on foot. As a well-known field-man, he has guided successive generations of youth hostellers and members of the Ramblers' Federation and many field societies as well as his own students to appreciate the influence of a varied physical environment both on wild life and on man.

As an island of 'Highland Britain' surrounded by industrial England, the outcrops of the Millstone Grit, the Coal Measure sandstones and shales, the massive Carboniferous limestones and the old volcanic 'toad stones' have afforded sharply contrasted land forms and habitats—from intimate wooded dales to windswept moorland heights and boggy hollows. Man's interest has varied with the passing of time, and to-day competing interests are strong—from mining and quarrying, through farming, grazing and forestry to the needs of water supply, sport, recreation and nature conservation.

In a well-balanced text, supported by numerous maps and diagrams and a fine selection of pictures, the authors are to be cordially congratulated in giving due consideration to each of these varied and often conflicting interests.

L. DUDLEY STAMP