

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Health Centres, by William Thomson, M. D., *Nursing Times*, London, 1972, No. 4.

Health centres are an exciting proposition. Here, for the first time, the therapeutic and preventive health services can be brought together in one co-ordinated effort. A more comprehensive approach to primary patient care can be made available from one source in the setting of a localized community.

It is not surprising that many doctors and nurses have become enthusiastic about health centres. They see in them a new approach to family medicine and a fresh way of conducting general practice: a drawing together at field level of those parts of the National Health Service which for historical reasons have been kept apart.

Health centres are flourishing. Michael Curwen of Guy's Hospital and Brian Brookes of The Hospital Centre in London wrote to the various authorities concerned with health centre development. They discovered that by 1971 some 300 centres would be available in Great Britain. These would offer accommodation to approximately 1 in 15 of all general practitioners. More centres would be built in the years to follow and an increasing proportion of general practice would take place from buildings of this nature.

But what are health centres? Briefly, a health centre should be a specially designed building, well situated and easy to reach, and it should have generous car parking facilities. It should have good space standards inside and be properly equipped for its purpose.

Within it, family doctors, hospital specialists and the staff of the medical officer of health should hold their clinics. There should be a team approach to patient care with doctors and nurses working in close association. There should be an atmosphere of development and growth and particular attention paid to the community aspects of everyday illness....

...To the doctor and nurse in the field, remote from the higher levels of management, the health centre has an immediate appeal. It affords an opportunity to carry out the sort of integrated service usually only read about in textbooks and professional journals.

It allows the talents and skills of various disciplines to be brought together within the one building, so that they can work together towards a common end. This is to their own benefit and to the benefit of the patients.

Health centres provide means to a more efficient and a more economic level of first-line patient care. They bring a fresh approach to family medicine and domiciliary practice. They offer the challenge of a team approach to illness within the community. Above all, they provide those doctors and nurses who work from health centres the opportunity of a more satisfying and rewarding professional life.

Education and the Destiny of Man, by Edgar Faure, *The Courier*, Unesco, Paris, November 1972.

If we agree that the time is ripe for educational reform, that education is today facing a critical challenge, that we must all join together in rethinking it in its entirety, then international co-operation and world solidarity are clearly more necessary than ever before.

The research organizations that will have to be set up or extended to develop forms of technological aid to education can benefit all countries. The need for innovation is felt today in many developed countries and their problems are no different in essence from those of the developing countries they are trying to help.

The Role of Degree Programmes in Nursing Education in Africa, by Rose Ndlovu, *International Nursing Review*, Geneva 1972, Vol. 19, No. 4.

...Several African countries have been considering establishing a degree programme in nursing somewhere in Africa. It is for this reason that interested parties should begin to consider the significance and implications of such a programme if it does come into being. For social, practical and financial reasons, a large number of African girls choose nursing as a career. It is therefore right to assume that great brain-power lies untapped or only minimally used because there is not an adequate stimulus within the career. If a degree programme for nurses came into being, it could be geared towards meeting the two main needs, which are: raising the standard of patient care, and creating an opportunity for a large segment of African women to reach or come close to their maximum potential in their chosen areas.

...Development of a nation means development of the various fields within a nation. Nursing constitutes one of those fields that unite to form a whole. A degree in nursing would give a great number of women in this field an opportunity for intellectual fulfilment and, at the same