

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

their discipline and skill in nursing ; the volunteers themselves, on the other hand, take pleasure in the valuable contact they make with the hospital, the patients and particularly the hospital staff who have shown themselves so efficient and willing in initiating volunteers into the routine hospital tasks. The same experiment should be repeated with other groups.

Such a fine example is worth praising, encouraging and extending. This mutual assistance between graduate nurses—who pass on their knowledge—and these assistants—who offer their willingness—gives renewed lustre to the emblem of the hospitals which in former times were founded on the charity flowing from the hearts of such people as Fabiola in Rome, St.Hildegarde in Germany, St.Elizabeth in Hungary, St.Louise-de-Marillac in France, the Duchess d'Aiguillon—founder of the Hôtel-Dieu in Quebec, and Jeanne Mance to whom we owe the Hôtel-Dieu in Montreal.

The examples given by these voluntary hospital workers prove that, in spite of the cybernetic trends in our hospitals, altruism still flourishes.

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### **Problems of waste disposal, *WHO Chronicle—World Health Organization, Geneva, No. 5.***

Sanitary engineering is constantly evolving. Not only are new methods being developed for tackling old problems but the growing size and improving living standards of communities and the appearance of new industries are continually changing the nature and the volume of waste products, such as fertilizers drained from the land, the waste from manufacturing processes, or the garbage deposited in household dustbins . . .

. . . It can be claimed with some justification that the immense improvement in health and well-being in industrial countries during the past century has been due more to improved sanitation than to any other single factor. But continued alertness and above all continued research are needed to maintain a reasonably healthy environment in face of the growth of populations and the ever-increasing industrialization of the countryside, and to improve the standard by eliminating the foulness of many rivers, the pollution of the atmosphere, and the spoiling of beaches. The efforts made in the past will need to be redoubled in the future.