

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

**Unesco and the Struggle for Human Rights**, by *Pierre Juvigny and Marie-Pierre Herzog*, *The Courier, Unesco, Paris, October 1973.*

Parallel with the creation of Unesco, and as part of the same general inspiration, other U.N. Specialized Agencies appeared, such as the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization, while the Economic and Social Council, established by the Charter of the United Nations, was to co-ordinate and to promote the execution of this great enterprise.

As this undertaking rested largely on the hopes which had been pinned on the development of human rights through international cooperation, it is understandable in retrospect that the same impetus that had brought the United Nations together, and that had strongly influenced the distribution of tasks within the newly created system, should have resulted in a U.N. decision to proceed without delay to a *Declaration of Human Rights*.

It was fully appreciated that the ideals professed in the various preambles were in need of clearer formulation in order to ensure that they had the greatest possible intellectual impact and practical effect.

On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is true that the Declaration was not binding and that, in the main, it is not recognized by national legal systems as having the same standing as national law. It is also true that the work of the United Nations and of the Specialized Agencies may be considered, to a large extent, as a gradual process designed to enlist the co-operation of States themselves in transcending their inherent limitations and circumventing the legal and political obstacle created by the principle of non-interference in internal affairs.

In any event, the Declaration had a considerable impact on governments and on public opinion and has never ceased to be a source of support and guidance for all mankind, voicing its hopes and aspirations.

**Health for Everyone**, by *K. Evang, M.D.*, *World Health, Geneva, November 1973.*

... To conclude, during the first part of the 25-year period behind us we were tremendously successful in improving health conditions in most parts of the world. Although it should be remembered that very great discrepancies continue to exist between countries, we have made formidable steps towards "health for everyone".

At present we seem in a way to be halted, bogged down by health hazards of a new and partly unfamiliar character. If we are going to resume our victorious battle for health, a certain switch in the outlook on health and closely related social services is necessary.

Most important is to re-define the local "environment" so as to include not only physical but also mental and social factors. This will logically lead to a widening and reconstruction of primary health services at the local level.

We must realize that there are fewer and fewer things a physician can and should do alone. His monopoly as the only authority on health belongs to the past. From now on he must share his responsibility with a long list of other kinds of specially trained health personnel. This also has the advantage of "widening the front" of people fighting the battle for health.

Besides their financial budgets and short- and long-term economic planning, governments should also produce resource budgets—short- and long-term—including provision against the unpleasant aspects of pollution.

The health authorities—widened and strengthened in the way indicated above—should be given the final word in deciding on the acceptability of health risks incurred in production, transportation, and so on, and should take practical action in consequence. . .

---