

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

possibly as the physical expression of an inner conflict or difficulty to adapt.

Balint's research and training methods, his small discussion groups, are proving to be a practical means of developing the vocational personality and of teaching the relationship between the doctor and his patients...

*Bruxelles-Médical*, Bruxelles, 1969, No. 2.

Our century will no doubt be marked by the discovery of nuclear energy, the development of the computer, the conquest of space and the first heart transplant. But apart from these sensational discoveries, it will also be marked by the advent of a new phenomenon, namely the collective awareness of certain threats weighing on the future of humanity.

For the first time in his history man realises that his future on earth is seriously threatened; threatened by destruction by thermo-nuclear warfare, threatened by asphyxia through the pollution of water and air, threatened by famine owing to a population explosion. And for the first time, humanity is beginning to realise that over and above the races, ideologies and religions, it must unite in order to take energetic and collective precautions. If humanity is to survive, that is to say not only to survive but to advance, it must succeed in controlling nuclear armaments, air and water pollution as well as fertility.

I feel I am in a position to state that from a purely technical point of view, we now have at our disposal an arsenal of contraceptive methods which should enable us to face up to the demographic problems. But it is not enough to be in possession of efficient methods for checking the threat of overpopulation of our planet; what is needed is to be able to use them on a large scale, which implies an education of the masses, something which is still far from being attained, and it is in that direction that our efforts ought at present to be directed. (*J. Schwerts*)

**The Conflict of Generations in Nursing**, by Yrjo Lethi, *International Nursing Review*, Basel, 1969, Vol. 16, No. 2.

This seemingly unavoidable conflict can be eased by certain practical measures associated with the meeting situation itself. Evidently the situation ought to be prepared very carefully and with long-range aims. It would hardly cause very great trouble if the older workers were informed about the affair beforehand, and surely it would be still better if they were allowed in some way to participate in choosing the new employee, for instance by expressing their opinions. Similarly, one should explain to the new worker what is awaiting her. Experience seems to