

BOOK REVIEWS

Health Care Planning in the Developing World - edited and published by Jayati Hazra, Calcutta, 1994, pp. 203+iv, price Rs. 250/- (U \$ 15).

This is a collection of papers - more essays than research papers - presented at the seminar organized under the aegis of the IGU Commission on Health and Development by Jayati Hazra, the editor and publisher of the volume. The seminar does not focus on any specific theme and the contributions range from 'Primary Health Care Programme in Nigeria' to 'Rural Health Care and Sanitation in some West Bengal Villages' to 'Geographical Inequalities of Mortality in China'. The two studies from China are particularly instructive to Indian planners; the one by A. K. Dutt and others on 'Pattern of Medical Facilities in China which concludes that the medical facilities in China's cities have a general characteristic of more placement in smaller cities to underscore the disadvantage of rural and minority ethnic areas, and of more placement

in higher mortality cities to achieve a balanced development; and the other on 'Mortality in China' by Fang Ru - Kang, which among other things concludes that after 1949, the mortality began to decline, and in 1988, it was 6.58/1000, one of the lowest in the world.

Besides the paper on 'Epidemiological transition' by David R. Phillips which cautions developing countries to plan for changing nature of diseases with greater industrialization and an apt epilogue by Bireswar Banerjee, there are a number of interesting case studies of medical facilities available in specific areas or specific community groups.

The book contains readable material on some aspects of medical geography.

K.R. Dikshit

Environment and Development : Views from East and West - edited by Amitav Mukherjee and V. K. Agnihotri, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie, 1993, pp. 587, price Rs. 750/-.

The volume puts together twentyeight papers presented at the fifth Indo-British seminar held at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie, in April, 1993. Divided into 8 parts, it has seven papers written by British geographers and the remaining contributions, with the exception of the editor and a couple of others, come from Indian

geographers. The editors at the outset have drawn attention to the differing perception and the approaches adopted by North and the South to the solution of environmental problems and development. The debate they have initiated remains, sadly, confined to their views, as the contributions in the following sections are more pre-occupied with specific case studies,