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Hospital Regulation : The Dilemma of Public Policy, by Anne R. Somers, Princeton, N.J., Industrial Relations Section : Princeton University, 1969, 240 pages.

Joan Sichel

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L'on déplacera l'absence d'études économiques sur le revenu des travailleurs migrants, qui auraient complété utilement ce tableau sinistre qui fait penser au "Lumpen proletariat" de Marx ou aux pays les plus sombres de Berthold Brecht.

C'est dire l'intérêt et le mérite de l'initiative de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles d'avoir amorcé l'étude pluridisciplinaire d'une des plaies les plus sordides que l'on retrouve malheureusement dans toutes les sociétés industrielles modernes.

Bernard SOLASSE

Hospital Regulation: The Dilemma of Public Policy, by Anne R. SOMERS, Princeton, N.J., Industrial Relations Section: Princeton University, 1969, 240 pages.

This study, originally envisaged as concentrating on the problems of personnel management and labour relations in hospitals evolved into a full examination of the intricacies of the relationships between the hospital and government. The author, Mrs. Anne R. Somers, has written and spoken extensively on medical economics. Her book reveals the complexity and inconsistency of the regulations confronting the hospitals, and concludes with recommendations for further development of a more logical regulatory system and a national hospital policy.

This book is divided into three parts: a short introduction followed by the main part of the work, an analysis of the existing public regulation of the voluntary (non-governmental, not-for-profit) hospital. The term "public regulation" when broken down, encompasses common law, tax law, labor law, personnel licensing, hospital licensing and Medicare certification, regulations for hospital construction, and the monitoring of financial operations and rate regulation. In this part, the author brings together aspects of all facets of hospital regulation. These laws and administrative and legal rulings are evaluated, and expert opinions are presented. Part three, subtitled "Controls Plus Incentives: Toward a Creative Mix", contains an overall evaluation and recommendations for a national policy for hospital regulation.

Mrs. Somers' book is so filled with detailed information that it is difficult to make generalizations. The importance of the hospital in contemporary society is undeniable, and has become a center of conflict in community relations and emergent public policy. The public is dissatisfied and criticism of hospitals has become almost a "national obsession".

Conflict exists. The expanding hospital industry is big business. As much as governments have become more and more financially involved in the affairs of hospitals, they are subject to surprisingly little systematic regulation or public ownership. The present uneconomic system is full of inefficiencies, "inordinately expensive and wasteful of scarce manpower".

The author concludes that the present fragmented and patchwork regulation of hospital administration should be overhauled and replaced by a comprehensive "loi cadre" covering all aspects of hospital administration, to be administered by a special branch of the Health, Education and Welfare Department. This book forms a good introduction to the problems of hospital administration and its governmental regulation.

Joan SICHEL

L'équipement social dans la croissance économique régionale — analyse des méthodes de définition des besoins en équipements sociaux sur le plan régional. Léo H. Klaassen (de l'institut économique néerlandais). Paris, Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques. (O.C.D.E.), 1968, 180 pages.

Il s'agit du troisième volume consacré à l'aménagement du territoire, publié par l'O.C.D.E. Il se rattache aux publications de cet organisme international concernant "le développement des possibilités d'emploi".

L'hypothèse de départ est la suivante: l'amélioration des services culturels et sociaux et d'une façon plus générale, celle de l'infrastructure économique exercent une influence positive sur la croissance économique. Les dépenses consacrées au bien-être personnel, à la santé, à l'accroissement des connaissances théoriques et pratiques représentent des in-