

Solomon Garb and Evelyn Eng. *Disaster Handbook*. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1969, 310 pp., \$ 8.95.

The authors of this book operate from the assumption that disaster, a term they use as referring to "a sudden occurrence which results in death or serious injury to 25 or more persons," is a phenomenon which must be dealt with in its own right. They therefore contend that the experience and training which a person may have in non-disaster situations does not ordinarily qualify that person to take a position of leadership in a disaster. Hence they have written a work which in its informational content they hope will prepare more people to assume useful roles in the prevention and reduction of disaster casualties and in the caring for victims.

The book was written primarily for doctors and nurses, with the hope that those interested in disaster casualty prevention and disaster management would also find it valuable. It is the second edition of a work originally published in 1964.

The book is divided into five sections. In the first section the basic features of disaster are discussed. These include the chronology and the psychology of disaster, the organization of disaster teams, and communications systems as they relate to a disaster scene.

Section two contains information not included in the first edition on the functions of rescue, first aid and emergency care in disaster situations.

Section three deals with the critical role of the nurse in mass emergencies and also includes an outline of a complete hospital nursing plan to be used in times of disaster.

In section four, 24 types of disaster are analyzed with respect to the following issues: preventive measures, disaster prediction, mechanisms of death and injury, casualty prevention after initial impact and rescue techniques, first aid and evacuation and medical care.

The final section deals with nuclear explosions and the very special problems which would be associated with rescue activities in the aftermath of such an event.

The book contains bibliographies at the end of each section, and although the emphasis is on the citation of medically related material, the work provides a systematic elementary introduction to the disaster field.

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