You and Your Aging Parents. By Edith M. Stern and Mabel Ross, M.D. New York: A. A. Wynn, Inc. \$2.75

One of the authors of this book is well-known to mental health workers in the United States through her previous publications, including "Mental Illness; A Guide to the Family", "The Attendant's Guide" and "The Housemother's Guide". Her co-author is a psychiatrist and the Director of the Prince George County Mental Health Clinic, Maryland.

The advice given—although in some respects applicable more to conditions in America than to those in this country—is therefore based on sound principles and practical experience. To quote from the dust cover, the book "contains 100 real life stories covering every type of situation" within the scope of its special subject, i.e. the problems of married sons and daughters confronted with the necessity for planning a way of life for old parents—where they should live. Should they be offered a home with the family? If so, how will they fit in with the children? What financial arrangements should be made? What are the special characteristics and needs of old people which must be borne in mind? One situation is however left undealt with—that of the middle-aged unmarried daughter responsible for maintaining, single-handed, an aged father or mother—a situation which in this country is so common and which brings so many problems in its train.

But within its limits this is a book which is written so simply and covers so many details of the most homely and practical kind, that it should bring real help to those whose circumstances correspond with its subject matter. Indeed a possible criticism might be that its 21 chapters are so packed with sound advice that by the time the last page is reached the reader may feel that saturation point has been reached too.

A.L.H.

Social Service and Mental Health. An Essay on Psychiatric Social Workers. By Margaret Ashdown and S. Clement Brown. Routledge & Kegan Paul.

We are deferring a review of this important book until our next issue, in order that adequate space may be given to it.