disturbed sleep, in one case, was followed by an improvement in skill and attention (as measured by the Schuster dotting machine), but records taken daily thereafter showed that a normal standard was not regained until the sixteenth day; as a rule a worker is not conscious of the decline in efficiency due to moderate fatigue.

A chapter entitled "Finding the Job for the Person and the Person for the Job" gives some valuable advice on the principles of vocational guidance and selection of personnel, including suggestions as to how an interview should be conducted when a candidate for an appointment is called before a committee. "Time and motion study" is shown to be not merely a device for screwing the last ounce of effort out of the workers for the benefit of the firm, but a means of saving the workers from wasting their time and energy on useless efforts.

The book contains a happy blend of the results of pure research in physiology and psychology with the observations of investigators in a great variety of industries, there is useful information about the proper keeping and interpretation of sickness records, and the author displays a wide knowledge of the history and literature of her subject, and summarizes the arrangements now in operation in all the principal industrial countries of the world for the further study and improvement of working conditions. She knows well how to introduce an apt quotation and to cap this with a comment in which sympathy is combined with common sense, as shown in the following extract from the book:

> "Who first invented work, and bound the free
> To plough, loom, anvil, spade—and oh! most sad,
> To that dire drudgery at the desk's dead wood?"

> "In spite of the quotation from Charles Lamb, quite a lot of people work because they like it. The distinction between work and play is not easy to draw, and it is even true to say that some people work harder to dodge work than those who do the work."

The book may be commended to all those who are concerned, whether as employers, managers, industrial medical officers or welfare workers, in trying to understand the difficulties attending the maintenance of health and happiness in office or workshop.

D. C. NORRIS.

HOUSING

An Enquiry into People's Homes. A report prepared by Mass Observation for the Advertising Service Guild. London, 1943. Pp. xxiv + 228. Price 10s.

THIS book is the outcome of a questionnaire submitted in the autumn of 1941 to the inhabitants of working-class houses. It was divided equally between the skilled and unskilled social groups. It contains 14 main and 18 supplementary questions; 1,100 interviews took place in 11 selected areas. The limitation of such an inquiry, both in regard to places and people, as also in the number of questions, should serve as a warning not to over-rate the result.

The authors themselves make no wide claim and admit, modestly, that it is merely a contribution from a specially selected unbiassed angle. Such an inquiry during wartime must needs produce answers influenced by events. Some of the questions might have been answered differently under more propitious circumstances. The answers need not, therefore, apply in all cases to a post-war Britain.

I would like, however, to point out from the outset that, with all its limitations, the result of the inquiry is of great value, because it touches on the sociological aspect of housing, so much neglected in the past. Town planners and architects should study this book very carefully; it contains a host of, shall we say, hints and complaints, and thus gives valuable guidance to those who will be responsible for housing after the war. The amount of possible improvements, destined to satisfy modern needs, still lacking even in the newest council houses is amazing. The book confirms the impression that those entrusted with large-scale planning, as for instance Local Authorities, are not trained in all matters connected with social housing.

Planners should not only be expert architects and engineers, and know the implications of law and administration, but they should also understand the basis of economics—and especially the economics of housing as well as the sociological problems of the inhabitants. If housing should become an ever-increasing part of the duties of the Authorities it will clearly be necessary to have special training courses for town planners.

Of all the answers, given predominantly by housewives (only 10 per cent of the answers represent the husband's, son's or daughter's opinion), the most startling are those to the question whether flats or houses are preferred. It was to be expected that the majority would favour houses or bungalows, but who would have thought that only 5 per cent of the whole sample "would, by choice, inhabit a flat," and taking those alone who were actually living in flats, that "only 28 per cent of them would not prefer to move into some sort of a house, if they had the choice."

The reason for this overwhelming preference for houses are their gardens, very much missed by flat dwellers; other frequently quoted reasons for the dislike of flats are lack of privacy, noise, and the many restrictions imposed by the landlord. There can be no doubt that urban flats are not very suitable for rearing a family. Any future population policy should take this into consideration. Of the sample of flat dwellers here dealt with, 59 per cent had children under 14 living with them. The authors of the book remark that "nevertheless, in spite of this known antipathy to flats, other considerations of policy have led the London County Council to build four out of ten dwellings they have erected as flats. Even in 1938-9, 15,448 out of 17,971 dwellings erected by the L.C.C. were flats. This is an example of public policy flying directly in the face of public opinion." Yet, before the war, there were hardly any statistics of how many people liked, or disliked, flats, and the London County Council can well take this as an excuse; but what about the County of London plan, prepared for the London County Council, which has just been published? I hasten to say that I am a great admirer of Forshaw and Patrick Abercrombie's newly planned County of London, but was it really necessary to advocate the standard of 136 persons per acre, and thus to neglect the outcome of the present mass observation embodied in "People's Homes" as to the overwhelming predilection for private houses instead of flats?

The above concentration of population will be made possible, according to the new Plan, by putting 61 per cent of the persons living in Central London into eight and ten storey flats. This is one of three alternatives, which also contain schemes for 100 and for 200 persons per acre. The authors, however, recommend 136 persons per acre as a compromise, although they themselves would like to see the density of 100 persons per acre adopted, but think it would be difficult to achieve.

It is to be hoped that those responsible for the future planning of London will not be too rash in accepting this opinion. A much bolder housing plan should be envisaged for Central London. This could be done in view of the fact that so many factories have already been evacuated, or moved, into the country, provided that they are encouraged to stay where they are. True, on the expensive sites of the heart of London, the percentage of flat dwellers will, necessarily, be higher, but should not town planning for the future consider more the sociological than the economic optimum of demographic housing? In post-war Britain, the predominant wish of the people to inhabit houses and not flats should be given every consideration if democracy is not to become an empty term. This item is dealt with at some length to emphasize the importance of mass observation, as laid down in the book, for a future housing policy.

It is impossible here to enumerate all the details of the book which are worth studying. In a future questionnaire on homes for families, perhaps the question might be inserted: "What improvements in your house would you like most, provided it would not lead to a higher rent?" The

answer given by a tenant, that "the more modern they are the higher the rent and working people cannot afford them," is perhaps the key to the very modest suggestions made for improvement by working-class housewives in present circumstances. However, it may not be out of the question that a future population policy will bring about heavy rent subsidies, which would entail the possibility of more adequate housing. It will not be easy to bring about a reversal of the present population trend, which is the result of economic, sociological and psychological causes, but it is safe to say that more labour-saving dwellings might be one of the pre-conditions, and rent subsidy on an increasing scale another, especially for large families, in order at least to arrest the decline.

M. J. ELSAS.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Hooton, E. A. *Man's Poor Relations.* New York, 1942. Doubleday, Doran. Pp. 352, 60 plates. Price $3.75.

THE well-known teacher at Harvard here summarizes the work of other authors, listed in a 9-page bibliography, all but a dozen entries dating since 1920. Anatomical matter is condensed and can be passed over by those who are not interested; it touches especially the work of Gregory, Broom and Schultz. Observations of behaviour under both natural and experimental conditions are described, often in lively fashion, on the basis of work by many authors, including keepers of pets as well as Bingham, Carpenter, M. P. Crawford, Grether, Florence Lowther, Nissen, Noback, Yerkes and Zuckerman.

The author insists on the actuality of a vague territorial ownership, especially among baboons and howler monkeys. Another general point is the widespread occurrence of disease and of more or less healed fractures among wild forms. The animals are all more or less social and there are endless variations of grade of leadership. Among most of the New World monkeys a dominance of any one animal is not much marked and sex passion does not seem to cause great disturbance. Among Old World Primates the male is more dominant, the female more submissive, and sex activities are both frequent and disturbing. Among the baboons, who are most intensely sexed, fights between males are notorious, and attacks on females are frequent and may be fatal. Sexual behaviour is described for many types.

Hooton is cautious about statements by keepers of pets, who are so often apt to ornament their stories and to anthropomorphize descriptions of behaviour.

Special attention is given to the great apes, but all forms of primates including tarsiers and lemurs and fossil forms are reviewed. Naturally the chimpanzee invites treatment at special length, it is teachable and on the whole co-operative, and the author calls it an extravert. The dominant male of a chimpanzee group can often be protective rather than really aggressive. Tests with gibbons are claimed to show that they did not solve problems set to them by the usual trial-and-error method, but that they seemed puzzled until the method dawned on their minds; in other words there is a claim for ideation and, as so often in man, this is followed by rapid nervous fatigue.

The reviewer has seen only a proof and hopes that a slip on p. 311 will be corrected. It is there stated that the north of Madagascar is drier and cooler than the south. The facts are the reverse of this.

H. J. F.