

Venster op het buitenland

ENGELAND

In Britain there are only two learned journals which devote themselves almost exclusively to sociology — the *British Journal of Sociology*, and the *Sociological Review*. The *British Journal of Sociology* ¹⁾ first appeared in March 1950 under the editorship of Professors Ginsberg, Glass and Marshall, all teachers at the London School of Economics, and this association with and virtual control by the School continues to the present time. With the creation of the British Sociological Association in February, 1951 and the granting of certain financial concessions to those members of that Association who wish to subscribe to the journal, there has been a tendency, especially in the most recent issues, for the Journal to act in some measure as the organ of the Association, carrying notices of its meetings, detail of its study group and lecture programmes and references to activities of the International Sociological Association to which the B.S.A. is affiliated.

The roots of the *Sociological Review* ²⁾ stretch much further back into the past and can be traced in fact to the publication of a series of papers given at the first sessions of the now almost defunct Sociological Society in 1904, 1905 and 1906. The *Review* proper began in January 1908 under the editorship of L. T. Hobhouse who not long afterwards was appointed the first Professor of Sociology in England, at the London School of Economics.

Hobhouse gave up the editorship of the *Review* after two or three years because of the pressure of other work and it was continued under Victor Brandford, a follower of Le Play. ³⁾ Throughout its history it was closely associated with the Sociological Society which together with the journal almost perished during the Second World War and the immediate post-war years when they both became more and more out of touch with developments in academic sociology in Britain. Indeed there is no doubt that the *Review* would have ceased publication altogether, had not the newly established University College of North Staffordshire taken it over in 1952. Since that time we have witnessed the rather unique situation of a University College without a sociology department and moreover without a professional sociologist on the staff, conducting apparently with success a journal for sociologists.

Both these journals regularly contain a mixture of research reports, theoretical discussions on sociological concepts and reviews of current literature, and there is very little to choose between them in content. Neither can be said to favour the approach of any sociological "school" even though it is true that the *British Journal of Sociology* tends to carry more articles by members of the London School of Economics than their relative numbers would seem to warrant. Both seem to get their fair share of contributions from non-British sources, especially from

America, and both seem to have been able to maintain a policy of methodological eclecticism which has prevented their contributors from relying too much on sociological jargon.⁴⁾

This, however, is not true of another British journal of interest to the sociologist. *Human Relations*⁵⁾, which first appeared in June, 1947, is a joint product of the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, London, England, and the Research Center for Group Dynamics, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A. In spite of, or perhaps as a result of, its attempt to live up to its subtitle, "Studies towards the integration of the Social Sciences", the journal appears to rely almost entirely upon the research reports of a single school of social scientists mainly inspired by the work of Kurt Lewin whose article on "Frontiers in Group Dynamics" opened the very first issue. A statement of Editorial Policy on that occasion made the claim that a journal of the type was needed because of the fact that modern research employs work teams of people recruited from many different academic disciplines. It may well be that this is an accurate description of the bulk of the reports which it publishes, but the language in which they are presented and the almost complete lack of articles dealing with any subject but what might be termed studies and analyses of behaviour in small, face-to-face groups gives the impression of a rather one-sided view of "integration" as far as the social sciences are concerned.

There are no other journals published in England which can be said to concern themselves exclusively, or almost exclusively, with sociological topics, even in the wide sense of that term, although other journals carry articles of a sociological nature from time to time. Of these the most consistent in this respect is *Occupational Psychology*⁶⁾, a journal which first appeared in 1922 as the *Journal of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology*. Many of the articles in this journal, as its name suggests, are concerned with time and motion study, fatigue, and other problems of interest to the industrial psychologist, but it also carries a fairly large range of material on group factors in industrial behaviour which is of interest to the industrial sociologist. Much the same kind of thing may be said of *Population Studies*⁷⁾ which is strictly speaking a journal of demography. Most of its studies are very technical and of interest only to the specialist in demography but occasionally it carries material of much wider interest, relating some aspect of population development to its sociological background or to its impact on other aspects of social life.

Finally we should notice *Planning*⁸⁾, the broadsheet published by P.E.P. (Political and Economic Planning). Many of these issues are concerned with economic questions and political questions of topical importance but they always have a bias towards the sociological point of view. It is perhaps unfortunate that it is part of the policy of this organisation that its broadsheets, like all its reports are published anonymously and are understood to be the product not of one individual nor of a small team of research workers but of the whole organisation. It is nevertheless well-known that University teachers and other sociologists are approached for advice and information in the preparation of material,

and the organisation with their aid undertakes field surveys from time to time, usually based on questionnaires circulated amongst a sample of the national population.

There is no doubt that for the foreign reader time spent amongst the files of back numbers of all these magazines will very quickly give an accurate idea of the developments of sociology in England. Most of what is published in current research appears in one or other of these journals and both the Sociological Review and the British Journal of Sociology devote adequate space to the consideration of contemporary published works. There is in addition an annual publication, the Register of Research in the Social Sciences⁹⁾, which gives a complete record of research in progress and some information about unpublished work presented for doctoral degrees in British Universities.

J. A. BANKS

CONGRES SOCIALE SAMENHANGEN IN NIEUWE STADSWIJKEN

Op Zaterdag 17 December a.s. organiseert het Instituut voor Sociaal Onderzoek van het Nederlandse Volk te Amsterdam een congres gewijd aan de problematiek van de moderne stadswijk.

Prae-adviezen worden uitgebracht door Mevr. Dr. F. T. Diemen-Lindebom, Ir. W. de Bruijn en Drs. J. A. A. van Doorn. Het ligt in de bedoeling om enerzijds de aandacht van het sociale onderzoek te vragen voor een diepgaande sociaal-wetenschappelijke studie van wijk en stad, terwijl anderzijds een poging wordt gewaagd in eerste omlining de moderne stadswijk als object van sociologische analyse aan de orde te stellen.

Voor dit congres kan men zich opgeven bij het Instituut voor Sociaal Onderzoek van het Nederlandse Volk, Nieuwe Hoogstraat 17, Amsterdam, Telef. 35358.

1) Published quarterly by Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd. for the London School of Economics, 10s. per copy, 30s. per annum.

2) Published twice a year by the University College of North Staffordshire, 11s. per copy, 21s. per annum.

3) Until it was taken over by the University College of North Staffordshire, the Review was published by the Le Play House Press.

4) There are, of course, occasional exceptions to this general rule.

6) Published quarterly by Tavistock Publications, Ltd. 8s. 6d. per copy, 30s. per annum.

6) Published quarterly by the National Institute of Industrial Psychology 30s. per annum.

7) Published three times a year by the Population Investigation Committee, 15s. per copy, 35s. per annum.

8) Published every three weeks by Political and Economic Planning, 2s. 6d. per issue, 40s. per annum.

9) Published every year by the Cambridge University Press, 15s.