

that exalts one class and debases another." Not until the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* did integration become official policy. And even as this is being written, official policy and reality often remain widely separated. Weinberg, editor of the journal *Integrated Education* and for decades an active foe of racial discrimination, makes no effort to disguise his own sympathies. But he has not written a political tract. This carefully documented account deserves to be widely read not only by historians of American education but also by those who seek the origins of a problem as contemporary as the *Bakke* case.

—Harold Woodman ('77)

A HEALTHY STATE: An International Perspective on the Crisis in United States Medical Care

by Victor W. and Ruth Sidel
Pantheon, 1978
347 pp. \$10.95
L of C 77-5196
ISBN 0-394-40760-1

The United States spent more than \$139 billion on health and medical care in 1976, or \$638 per citizen, making its investment in prevention and cure of illness the highest per capita in the world. Yet the nation ranks low by international standards in terms of results (19th in male life expectancy, four years less than Sweden; 15th in infant mortality, with a rate 80 percent higher than that of Sweden). The Sidels—he is chairman of the Department of Social Medicine at New York's Montefiore Hospital, she is a social worker—competently describe the financial disarray and medical shortcomings of the U.S. health care system. They then compare its history and organization with those of counterparts in Sweden, Britain, the Soviet Union, and China. Because they clearly favor a state-run system, they at times seem to suspend critical judgment; for example, they ignore the Soviet Union's recent rise in infant mortality from 22.9 deaths per 1,000 in 1971 to an estimated 31 per 1,000 in 1976, twice the present U.S. rate. Their own proposal for a comprehensive U.S. national health service includes: greater availability of medical services, no direct financial burdens on the ill, community participation, improved planning, and more stress on preventive medicine.

—Christopher Davis ('77)