been urging national health schemes similar to the Scandinavian or British systems, but the majority of the Swiss are still convinced that they do better under their combined public and private insurance. The tendency is more and more to coverage for people in the exceedingly low income level.

In Australia the health care is through voluntary insurance agencies which are included under the Australian Medical Plan. There is no separate or special tax to pay for health services, nor is any such charge withheld from wages. Except for Queensland, all other Australian governments impose a means test on hospital patients.

This volume on Financing Medical Care brings to light many facts not usually called to the attention of American citizens where medical care of the aged has become a highly inflammable political issue. In such times particularly, people ought to be made aware of the experiences in other countries of the world. These may well guide them in their ultimate decisions as to what they want in the way of government participation in medical care in our own country.

Reviewed by Morris Fishbein, M.D.

Portrait in Rose Color


William Manchester, managing editor of the Wesleyan University Press, has subtitled his latest book, "John F. Kennedy in Profile." Unfortunately it is not much more than a profile, or, more accurately, a succession of profiles snapped on the run. But the author is not necessarily to blame for the absence of what the dust jacket bills as "new depth" and "insight."

The picture we get—if we didn't have it already—is of a man in a hurry, a man of such relentless drive that every minute of his time, every word, and every gesture must sound a bell on his public relations cash register, either in direct achievement or in improving his "image." During his two-year courtship of Miss Bouvier, according to Mr. Manchester, the senator-going-on-President managed to write her only once, and this was a postcard reading, in full, "Wish you were here." At stop lights, the book tells us, he would snap his fingers impatiently, muttering, "Let's go!"

True or not, these stories are characteristic of a man who has little time for venturing outside of the limelight, for reflection, or for writing the revealing sort of letters which continued to come to light long after Teddy Roosevelt's death, refreshing and embellishing the people's memory of him.

It isn't easy for an author to delve "inside" a man whose every side seems to be outside. This, perhaps, is why the book consists largely of anecdotes, many of them familiar; fleeting comments from various ex-roommates, relatives, and other acquaintances; and the accounts of two interviews which, though they appear to have been conducted in a leisurely manner, yield more in the way of trivial observations (the President's "burnished black shoes gliding in a Boston social gait") than in the way of constructive conversation.

Getting to know John F. Kennedy by such means is a little like trying to find out what a Hollywood actress is really like at a crowded cocktail party given by her press agent.

This leads to a second and perhaps more valid criticism of the book, and that is its persistent tone of adulation. Mr. Manchester
didn't intend it to be biographical or political; it barely touches on the controversial issues of the times. But even a portrait painter or a profile snapper should avoid being so dazzled by his subject and his subject's job that he sees every flaw as a virtue.

The same admiration is applied, rather inconsistently, to Mr. Kennedy's preference for people who don't drink and to his preference for daiquiris; to his blue-blooded tastes and scholarship and to his qualities that "appeal to the young marrieds in the suburban developments"; to his independence of his father and to his habit of telephoning his father from the White House a half-dozen times a day for his advice and reactions.

Is his mind too literal, and does he lack the capacity to generalize? This isn't a weakness, Mr. Manchester says; it is a quality shared by Caesar and Napoleon. Is he reluctant to indulge in meditation? This means he is free of dogma. Does he occasionally lose his temper? He "knows precisely when to lose" it. Does he give "varying impressions" to the public? This isn't political strategy; it illustrates "the complexity of the man. Really he is many men."

That Vice President Nixon should have sent a gift to Senator Kennedy on the latter's recovery from his serious back operation is not credited to Mr. Nixon's courtesy or to political usage, but rather to Mr. Kennedy's "curious way of involving people, including opponents, in his struggles."

The steel price crisis provides Mr. Manchester with a glorious climax. He says of Mr. Kennedy's impetuous display of force that it was "a revealing display of Himself... He had shown the mailed fist and then he had sheathed it in deepest velvet."

A Kennedy friend went even farther: "There stood Jack the giant killer, almost making you believe that he had the touch of the supernatural on his shoulder."

This unrestrained idolatry is not persuasive, no matter what one's political views. Time has already begun to prove that killing the giants of private industry is not the wisest goal for a President. At one point Mr. Manchester tells the story of two motorists who, seeing the President on the White House lawn, turned to cheer him—and collided. It could be that Mr. Manchester was one of those motorists.

Reviewed by JOHN T. MC CUTCHEON, JR.

A Question of Tragedy


A PREMEDITATED robbery-murder of two men was committed many years ago. Violent though the crime was, it was not then, nor is it now, an unusual occurrence. Another two men, anarchists and aliens in the country where the crime was committed, who denied guilt and persisted in that denial to the end, were suspected and, in accordance with the legal processes of the country, were tried for the crime and found guilty. In the course of both the pre-trial and trial procedures they were represented by a succession of counsel, all competent and some quite eminent. Extraordinarily large sums of money were made available for their defense and, in a myriad of protracted post-trial procedures in their behalf that few accused enjoy, they had the benefit of the maximum efforts of many legal luminaries of the first order. The post-judgment procedures included executive review...