

BRITISH EXPERIMENTS
in
PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
AND CONTROL

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**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP
AND CONTROL**

A Study of the
CENTRAL ELECTRICITY BOARD
BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
LONDON PASSENGER TRANSPORT BOARD

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To M. whose back
forbore to break
under this straw

NOTE

THIS IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF STUDIES under a research scheme promoted by the Institute of Public Administration. The Council of the Institute hopes that these studies will help to make available for all interested some part of the store of experience and thought relating to public administration which the various public services of the country possess.

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A study of the Central Electricity Board, the B.B.C., and the London Transport Board regarded as conspicuous examples of a method of organizing the public ownership and control of a social or economic function which may bear considerable future significance.

Three vital services are being conducted as public concerns, not along the lines of orthodox "nationalization," but by Corporations endowed with considerable independence in the interests of business efficiency. The writer has examined these Corporations at first hand, and describes the powers granted to them by Parliament, the type of persons chosen to direct them, the manner in which they select and treat their staffs, the kind of relations they have established with the general public and the Press, and kindred topics. He regards their example and practices as a real contribution, of direct concern to all citizens, towards resolving the conflict, inherent in a democratic State under the complex conditions of to-day, between "democracy" and "efficiency."

The author obtained First-Class Honours in the Oxford School of "Modern Greats" and was Exhibitioner and Senior Demy of Magdalen College. He spent five years in the U.S.A. soon after taking his degree, and was for two years private secretary to Mr. Ivy Lee, Publicist, of New York City. He visited the U.S.S.R. twice in this period and was for three years Tutor and Instructor in Government at Harvard University. He was Lecturer in Modern History at Balliol College, 1935-1936.

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