

effect of the changing schedule of mortality on the rate of growth of the population, its age constitution, and its social and economic trends. This section of the book is of particular interest not only to the specialist in population studies but to the general person who is interested in the structure and problems of the society in which he lives. Its implications are of decided importance for the formation of any sound program of social planning.

The appendix to the book contains a very valuable collection of life tables. In addition to the life tables for the United States, 1929-1931, given in the text, the *American Experience Table* and the *American Men Ultimate Table* are given in complete form, and more than five hundred abridged tables are given, the complete expectation of life, and in some cases q_x values, being tabulated at decennial years. In the opinion of this reviewer, the collection of tables would be of wider use if for a smaller number of tables some function of the life table were tabulated at yearly intervals, or if for the abridged tables, q_x had been the function selected for tabulation in every case. A bibliography of the principal tables and a comprehensive index of text and tables are included.

Those who have followed the work of Dr. Dublin and Dr. Lotka in the past will very much appreciate this valuable collection of their studies and their new readers will find in it a wealth of interesting ideas.

MARGARET MERRELL

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A MANUAL OF THE COMMON CONTAGIOUS DISEASES¹

THIS is an exceedingly compact manual of the common contagious diseases and should be exceedingly useful to practicing physicians and health officers who wish to review rapidly the salient facts about the diagnosis and treatment of one or another of these ailments. One rarely finds such extensive clinical data in such compact and accessible form. There are, in addition, valuable and concise sections on the diagnosis and prevention of serum reactions, technique of vaccination, and on the general management of communicable diseases at home, in the hospital, and elsewhere.

¹ Stimson, Philip Moen, M.D.: A MANUAL OF THE COMMON CONTAGIOUS DISEASES. Philadelphia, Lea and Febiger, 1936, 437 pages. \$4.00.

From the point of view of the practitioner of *preventive* medicine, the book gives very adequately the basic facts underlying prophylaxis, but the preventive measures listed are applicable more often than not to conditions in large cities only. There are some minor faults of the book which, if given some space here, should not be regarded as seriously detracting from the merit of a useful book.

In the first place, the fatality data upon which the practitioner relies for one most important prognostic point are based for the most part upon hospital experience at the Willard Parker. The result is the fatality of a highly selected group. Thus, in discussing whooping cough, the author states that "in children under the age of twelve months, whooping cough is fatal in 20 to 35 per cent of hospital cases." Out of 171 cases under the age of one year which were recorded in various morbidity surveys performed under the direction of the United States Public Health Service and the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, there were only three deaths from whooping cough and its complications—a fatality rate for children under one year of only 1.8 per cent.

The young practitioner, fresh from his hospital internship and learning his prognosis from texts based on hospital experience, is often somewhat confused by the conditions which he encounters in private practice.

In the discussion on the Schick test, there is an implication that the removal of tonsils alters the Schick reaction in the statement: "In private practice the Schick test is used principally to determine whether or not immunization, as by the administration of toxin antitoxin, by an attack of the disease, or by tonsillectomy, has been accomplished." Published studies to date do not lend much credence to the earlier expressed views that tonsillectomy significantly influences the Schick reaction.

These are, however, minor criticisms of a worthy book.

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THE ART OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING¹

THE emphasis in this book is put upon the human aspects of service, pointing out the need for public health nurses to have a deeper

¹Bryan, Edith S., M.A., Ph.D., R.N.: THE ART OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1935, 282 pp. \$2.00.