

HUMAN MIGRATION

IN this day of intense nationalism it is good to find a new book devoted to a dispassionate analysis of immigration problems. Taft's *HUMAN MIGRATION*¹ is a study of international population movements with special reference to recent migrations to the United States. Intended as an objective treatment of migration and of attitudes and policies concerning international movements, its scope is broad and its viewpoint transcends that of the ardent nationalist.

Describing the uneven distribution of mankind and goods as the geographic and economic setting for population movements, the author examines the ethical principles of migration from the point of view of the migrants themselves, of the people left behind, of the people receiving the migrants, and also of supposedly impartial students of population. Characteristically, the author presents opinions of "authorities" on the subject, points out the limitations of such discussions, and leaves the reader with no dogmatic conclusions. He does emphasize, however, that if migration policies were divested of prejudices and dealt with the needs of all concerned, the question of ethics could be disregarded.

As a background of this country's problems and policies the author traces briefly the history of immigration and the restrictions surrounding it. Prior to 1882 there was virtually no federal control of immigration and the "open door" policy prevailed. Until that time, too, the migrants were largely from northern and western Europe and were readily absorbed by the available lands and by the expanding industrial and transportational pursuits of a young country. The year 1882 marked the beginning of a shift in the origin of immigration from northern and western to southern and eastern Europe; it was approximately the time of the Chinese Exclusion Act; and it inaugurated the beginning of federal control of immigration. From 1882 until the World War, however, the annual stream of immigrants was larger than ever before. Organized labor favored restriction but organized industry saw in this stream a supply of cheap labor. Consequently, these groups contended for opposite forms of immigration policy. The post-war nationalism, and perhaps the turn of events in Russia, made the industrialists feel that the risks of radicalism constituted high costs for cheap alien labor, so these interests allied themselves with other groups seeking restrictive legislation.

¹ Taft, Donald R.: *HUMAN MIGRATION; A STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS*. New York. The Ronald Press Company, 1936, 590 pp.

The flow of immigrants into this country subsided considerably during the World War and in 1917 the literacy test was enacted to prevent resumption of the large-scale entries. By this time there was also much concern over the "quality" of immigrants. Nationalism was fed by pseudo-scientific racial doctrines. In 1921 the quota law was enacted as an emergency measure to stem the post-war flow of immigrants and to control their "quality" until a permanent measure could be adopted.

Without any semblance of sensationalism but also without mincing words, the author reminds us of the rôle of pseudo-scientific theories in bringing about the American Immigration Act of 1924. He points not only to the widely circulated theories of "Nordic superiority" but also to the misleading racial data submitted before the House Committee on Immigration when the Act of 1924 was under discussion in Congress. As enacted, the law of 1924 constitutes the basis for our present system of discriminative restriction. In general, it permits a maximum of 150,000 immigrants each year, apportioned among different countries on a basis of representation of specific nationalities in our population in 1920. It favors countries of northern and western Europe on the implicit assumption that groups from those areas are more desirable than others.

Throughout the book the author's viewpoint is that of the sociologist. While admitting the need for intelligent control of migration, he views as socially stimulating the contacts and conflicts of diverse cultures. Rigid barriers against immigrants, he contends, stultify cultural advance and foster intolerance and ethnocentric ideas. The social problems which are frequently characteristic of immigrant groups, such as delinquency and crime, are viewed as merely temporary disturbances inherent in the process of adjustment to a new environment. Public health leaders have recognized the peculiar health problems of foreign groups in congested city areas. It is interesting to note that the author thinks some of the finest social relationships between immigrants and natives have developed in the field of public health. Such contacts have led to assimilation of health ideas and practices and have often opened the way for assimilation in other directions because they have developed mutual understanding between immigrant groups and socially-minded Americans.

While international attempts to control immigration have been hampered by national jealousies, and although whole-hearted cooperation between various countries in solving social problems appears remote, the author believes strongly that solution of migration problems necessitates

the joint action of all nations involved. He points to the bilateral control of the migrations of Poles to France as an example of active cooperation in working out mutually satisfactory policies of migration.

To the general reader the materials in the book may appear at first to be poorly organized. However, the book was intended primarily as a text for mature students, and the author has attempted to present in a single volume a mass of material dealing both with critical analyses of investigations and with prevalent attitudes concerning problems of migration in their many ramifications. Consequently, the author has found it necessary to interweave factual accounts of population movements and their restrictions with discussions of the cultural, economic, and biological implications of these movements. It is hoped that the influence of this book will not be restricted to the academic circles for which it was written. Its impartial consideration of the whole migration problem is in striking contrast with the one-sided theories which are the bases for prevalent attitudes toward migration.

CLYDE V. KISER



THE RECENT TREND IN MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS AT YOUNG ADULT AGES

IT is a well-known fact that tuberculosis mortality in the United States is declining rapidly. But we have no satisfactory factual explanation as to why it is declining less rapidly in rural than in urban areas, or as to why the mortality among males at certain ages is declining more rapidly than for females at similar ages.

A serious attempt has been made in England and Wales to discover through the use of available statistical material the reasons for an increase in recent years in the death rate among young adult females and the slow rate of decline among males at the same ages in that country.¹ Study of the trend of mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis shows that the decline of 75 per cent in mortality at all ages during the period 1851-1860 and 1921-1930 has not been equally derived from the different ages of life. Between 1851-1860 and 1901-1910 the improvement observed was considerably greater for persons under 35 years of age, than in middle and old

¹ Hill, A. Bradford: *The Recent Trend in England and Wales of Mortality from Phthisis at Young Adult Ages. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, 1936, xcix, Part II.