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**T**HE inclusion of Negro populations in the Health Survey conducted by the United States Public Health Service in 1935-1936 provides data on illness among approximately 230,000 Negro persons and fills an important lack in the morbidity data previously available. In "Health of the Negro," Dorothy F. Holland and George St.J. Perrott present a preliminary analysis of records for 30,000 Negroes in four of the cities in the Health Survey. The results of an earlier survey in 1933 in a Negro district and a low-income white district in New York City also are discussed. Negroes form an important part of the underprivileged groups in the United States and better understanding of their special health problems is essential as a basis for an effective public health program. These surveys show that the illness record for Negroes as compared with whites is especially unfavorable in the adult ages.



What has happened to class differences in birth rates in recent years? In this issue are published for the first time some preliminary results from fertility data collected by the United States Public Health Service in connection with its National Health Survey of 1935-1936. These are embodied in "Variations in Birth Rates According to Occupational Status, Family Income, and Educational Attainment" by Clyde V. Kiser. The above report is confined to results from five large cities included in the survey and for present purposes the data are restricted mainly to 16,831 native-white marriages in which the wives were of childbearing age. The preliminary findings suggest that in recent years the "uppermost" classes may have lost one of their traditional badges of distinction. Families in the highest income class were not characterized by lowest birth rates. Highest fertility levels, however, were universally found among families of "lowest" status with respect to occupation, income, or education.

Of timely interest is "A Demographic Study of 38,256 Rural Families in China," by Frank W. Notestein of Princeton University. This article presents in condensed form some of the major population findings derived in connection with a study of land utilization made by Professor J. Lossing Buck of Nanking for The China Institute of Pacific Relations. Despite the obstacles encountered in securing first-hand information from an illiterate peasant population, it is believed that the present report gives a truer picture of the composition and vital processes of the rural Chinese population than has heretofore been afforded. Data are presented concerning the family, age and sex, marriage, birth rates, and death rates. The general picture is far from encouraging. On examining the materials in this careful study, one cannot but feel that poverty, illiteracy, and long-continued wastage of human resources through excessive births and deaths are fundamental factors underlying the weakness of China in her troublous times of today.

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In "A Summary of Data on Reported Incidence of Abortion," Dorothy G. Wiehl has reviewed recent data for general population groups and for clients of birth control clinics in different sections of the United States. For urban groups of married women, a number of independent studies indicate that approximately 15 per cent of pregnancies are terminated by abortion, 10 per cent are spontaneous, and 5 per cent are induced abortions.

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The third section of the series on "Impairments in a Rural Population" appears in this number. The previous sections have dealt with the general prevalence of impairments and with specific impairments diagnosed from the history record. In the present section the objective findings of the physical and laboratory examinations are presented with a commentary on the problems encountered in the analysis of such data.