

ANNOTATIONS

OUTSTANDING BOOKS ON POPULATION PROBLEMS RELEASED IN 1938

THE year 1938 yielded a bountiful crop of books on population problems. In confining this annotation to publications released under the respective auspices of four organizations, there is no intention of minimizing the importance of other published studies.

Perhaps of chief interest during the year was the release of *THE PROBLEMS OF A CHANGING POPULATION*,¹ a report of the Committee on Population Problems to the National Resources Committee. As the title implies, this volume presents a broad, and yet a detailed, account of the crucial situations with respect to our present human resources and the outlook for the future. The chapter headings are indicative of the wide scope of the report: the trend of population—economic aspects; regional distribution of economic opportunity; trends in population redistribution; regional and racial differences in reproduction rates; social conditions affecting birth rates; physical characteristics and biological inheritance; health and physical development; social development and education² and cultural diversity in American life. Preceding these chapters is a brief statement of the Committee on Population Problems, in which an attempt is made to integrate the outstanding findings and to interpret their significance.

Prior to the release of the above reports was the separate publication of

¹ National Resources Committee: *THE PROBLEMS OF A CHANGING POPULATION*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1938, 306 pp. 75 cents. (Obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.).

² For another development of this subject, *see*: The Advisory Committee on Education. *REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1938, 243 pp. 35 cents. (Obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.).

three brochures POPULATION STATISTICS:³ (1) National Data, (2) State Data, and (3) Urban Data. These volumes furnish in detailed form some of the data collected for THE PROBLEMS OF A CHANGING POPULATION, but their content is not confined to such materials.

Two research memoranda, sponsored by the Social Science Research Council, and released in 1938 under the authorship of Dorothy S. Thomas and Rupert B. Vance, represent a continuation of the Council's long-standing interest in problems of migration. Dr. Thomas' report, RESEARCH MEMORANDUM ON MIGRATION DIFFERENTIALS,⁴ is a critical appraisal of existing factual material on the subject of selective migration. The author has drawn upon foreign and domestic materials and has presented evidence of a fairly uniform pattern of selection in so far as age, sex, and marital status of migrants are concerned. According to her report, the evidence of selection with regard to physical and mental health, intelligence, occupation, and motivation and assimilation is far more fragmentary. Descriptions of several of the latter type of studies are presented in detail, together with criticisms of results and techniques, and suggestions for future approaches.

For a companion volume to the above, the Council commissioned Dr. Vance to examine the research opportunities and needs within the field of population redistribution. The report, RESEARCH MEMORANDUM ON POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES,⁵ materialized in 1938. The author was peculiarly fitted for this report by virtue of his previous participation in the investigation by Goodrich and associates which culminated in MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.⁶ In approaching his task Dr. Vance considered contrasting areas of economic opportunity, differential population increase, population and changing

³ National Resources Committee: POPULATION STATISTICS. 1. National Data; 2. State Data; and 3. Urban Data. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1937, 107 pp., 67 pp., and 52 pp. respectively. 30, 25, and 15 cents, respectively. (Obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.).

⁴ Thomas, Dorothy S.: RESEARCH MEMORANDUM ON MIGRATION DIFFERENTIALS. New York, Social Science Research Council, 1938, Bulletin 43, 423 pp.

⁵ Vance, Rupert B.: RESEARCH MEMORANDUM ON POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. New York, Social Science Research Council, 1938, Bulletin 42, 134 pp.

Attention is also called to Warren S. Thompson: RESEARCH MEMORANDUM ON INTERNAL MIGRATION. New York, Social Science Research Council, 1937, Bulletin 30 of the Council's studies in the social aspects of the depression.

⁶ Goodrich, Carter (and others): MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1936, 763 pp.

economic opportunity, and internal migration and the mobility of the population. His method of treatment is unique and worthy of trial by others. It consists in condensation of statements under the headings of propositions, queries, and [suggested] projects. The volume is therefore a brief and explicit handbook of the accepted interpretations, gaps in the data, and next lines of feasible research.

Similar in purpose to, but more general in scope than, the research memoranda of Thomas and Vance, is P. K. Whelpton's *NEEDED POPULATION RESEARCH*,⁷ prepared under the auspices of the Population Association of America. The central topics considered are population forecasts and estimates, official population statistics, fertility and fecundity, mortality, migration, and optimum size and composition of the population. Throughout, the author views the problems in broad perspective and suggests broad fields of research rather than detailed outlines. The result is a quite readable book and one which students of population can frequently consult with profit.

Prominent in the output of publications during the past years is the collection of papers presented at the International Population Congress, held in Paris in 1937 under the auspices of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems. With some exceptions the papers are published in the language of the individual authors. There is good representation of American contributions. The papers are grouped into eight volumes according to general subjects.⁸

Collectively, the studies published in this country during the past year have served to point up the problems clustering around the rural-urban discrepancies in birth rates—the meager economic opportunities, and hence the meager facilities for education and health in areas where birth rates are highest. The dual situation of population pressure in rural problem areas and low birth rates in cities introduces a set of problems attending migration to cities. Is the migration selective in so far as quality of population is concerned? To what extent do the problems of rural

⁷ Whelpton, P. K.: *NEEDED POPULATION RESEARCH*. Prepared under the auspices of the Population Association of America, 1938, 212 pp. \$1.00. (Orders received by the Milbank Memorial Fund.)

⁸ *CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DE LA POPULATION, PARIS, 1937*. Paris, Herman et Cie, 1938. 8 volumes: I. GENERAL THEORY OF POPULATION; II. HISTORICAL DEMOGRAPHY; III. STATISTICAL DEMOGRAPHY: General Studies; IV. STATISTICAL DEMOGRAPHY: Special Studies (State of the Population, Migrations); V. STATISTICAL DEMOGRAPHY: Special Studies (Marriage, Fertility, Mortality); VI. DEMOGRAPHY OF FRANCE BEYOND THE SEAS; VII. FACTORS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION; VIII. QUALITATIVE POPULATION PROBLEMS.

health, education, and economic opportunity transcend local concern? It is fitting that these questions should be explored by competent students before the inevitable demand for legislative correctives becomes strong.

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A CANADIAN STUDY OF HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT¹

IN the United States there has been a tendency to use the survey method for the study of health in relation to economic factors, although there are isolated studies, such as that of Diehl,² in which the clinical method is used. The Canadian approach, as summarized by Marsh and his collaborators, is a comparatively diversified one with emphasis, however, on the clinical approach.

The first three chapters, constituting Part I, review the field covered by the book and the work done in other countries. The publications of Sydenstricker, Falk, Collins, and Perrott are ably summarized, together with the results of the Health and Depression studies.

The next six chapters make up Part II and detail the findings of the clinical examination of a thousand unemployed men, as contrasted with those of a large group of employed men. The reader is given a very adequate basis for interpreting the factual findings here, for the characteristics of the sample are well presented, many sources of bias eliminated and such as could not be avoided are indicated so clearly that critical comment on the adequacy of the sample and the comparability of the control group could be taken from the authors. Part III takes up the results of examinations of a smaller group of unemployed young men between 14 and 18 years of age, studied with respect to the prevalence of defects in different socio-economic groups.

Part IV considers data assembled on the family as a whole from social agency records, available data on children, with particular reference to nutritional status, and minimum standard budgets. A final section, Part

¹ A REVIEW OF HEALTH AND UNEMPLOYMENT by Leonard C. Marsh in collaboration with A. Grant Fleming and C. F. Blackler. Oxford University Press, 1938.

² Diehl, H. S.: Physical Condition and Unemployment. *Public Health Reports*, November 15, 1935, Vol. 50, Part 2, p. 1610.