



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE application of medical and objective technique has contributed significantly to the progress of medical sciences. One of the more recently developed of such techniques is the electrostethograph, by means of which the sounds emanating from the human heart may be recorded graphically and permanently in the form of a tracing on a photographic film. In the belief that the instrument offers a new method for studying cardiovascular mechanics, the United States Public Health Service has undertaken a broad program of research. In "Cardiometric Studies on Children," Drs. Bert R. Boone and Antonio Ciocco present the preliminary results of a qualitative examination of stethographic records obtained in a survey of nearly 1,500 school children. The various patterns of heart sound tracings are described, age and sex differences are discussed, and other general data are given as background material for future studies.



In some southern states, pellagra stands about fifteenth as a cause of death, exceeding the number of deaths from such diseases as typhoid fever, diphtheria, measles, and poliomyelitis. But, while pellagra is by far the most serious of the deficiency disease problems of the South, there is ample evidence of the existence of other deficiency diseases also, such as scurvy, beriberi, nutritional edema, and nutritional anemia. In the article, "The Nature of Nutritional Diseases Occurring in the South," Dr. W. H. Sebrell discusses reasons why therapeutic measures should be supplemented by programs for the prevention of these diseases. The steps he advocates are the initiation of intensive educational efforts to improve the dietary standards of low-income groups in the areas where deficiency diseases are prevalent, and, through crop diversification, the increase of the local supply of natural preventive foods.

Past studies of differences in fertility according to socio-economic status, with a few exceptions, have been confined to married women. Such restriction serves to hold constant variations in proportions married and yields indications of trends of the variations in the fertility of married women. It is also important, however, to know the present status of class variations in fertility when the influence of differential marriage frequencies is taken into account. Furthermore, there is increasing desire to learn more about potential rates of growth among populations classified along socio-economic lines, and the level of reproduction rates depends upon proportions married at different ages as well upon marital fertility. It is mainly due to lack of suitable data that the above questions have been so largely neglected. In view of this dearth in the literature, Bernard D. Karpinos of the United States Public Health Service, and Clyde V. Kiser of the Fund's staff, present in this issue a paper, "The Differential Fertility and Potential Rates of Growth of Various Income and Educational Classes of Urban Populations in the United States." The basic data were collected in the National Health Survey, conducted by the United States Public Health Service, and embrace nearly 600,000 urban white females 15-44 years of age, enumerated in 83 cities of 19 states. The data afford some indication of differential rates of reproduction among urban white groups and afford a comparison of the present status of class differences in fertility when the factor of variations in proportions married is allowed to operate and when it is held constant.



"An Appraisal of Clinic Service," the third and last article in the series on the clinics of the Cincinnati Committee on Maternal Health entitled "Birth Control in a Midwestern City," by Regine K. Stix, discusses the need for changes in the accepted policies of birth control clinics. The method of contraception usually prescribed at the clinics is not suited to all types of patients and detailed study of the types of patients who reject it leads to the conclusion that clinics would do well to prescribe a number of different contraceptives, suiting each to the individual patient.