

will be noted, we believe, until provision is made for the discovery of cases early and for their skilled care.²

Cancer is indeed one of the most fatal diseases; it now ranks third among the leading causes of death. Cancer also carries with it the burden of invalidism. The problem of its control challenges the best efforts of physicians and public health officials.

JEAN DOWNES



ACCEPTED FOODS AND THEIR NUTRITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE¹

IN ALMOST every issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* appear reports of the action of the Council on Foods on food products whether acceptance, rejection, or rescindment of previous acceptance. It is not to be expected that the reader will retain in his memory this unending, running record.

The book, *ACCEPTED FOODS AND THEIR NUTRITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE*, retraces the positive side of the record. Here, some 3,800 brands of food products, accepted as of September 1, 1939, are brought together, classified, and indexed for ready reference. One useful feature is that the nutritional significance of the various types of foods is comprehensively discussed. We suspect that physicians and many health workers, particularly nurses, are being asked more and more about the value of particular foods; those not altogether fluently conversant in this specialty, but who desire a reading knowledge of it, would find comfort in this book.

But there are twenty-nine pages which alone constitute the outstanding section of the work. They should be read not only by every physician but by every literate layman. These pages relate the history of the Council, and describe its purpose, policy, methods, and scope: how with very limited powers it acts on a voluntary basis as a regulatory body to protect the public; how it carries authority and exerts influence by force of its prestige and the merit of its mission; and how its self-appointed task is to

² New Low Record For Mortality in 1939. *Statistical Bulletin*, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, January, 1940, 21, No. 1.

¹ *ACCEPTED FOODS AND THEIR NUTRITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE*, by Council on Foods of the American Medical Association. Chicago, American Medical Association, 1939, 492 pp. \$2.00.

prevent exaggerations and misrepresentations by false claims in advertising which not only violate ethics but play on inexhaustible human gullibility to the detriment of health.

The Council's method of keeping advertising in line is to put the premium of its approval on accuracy and honesty. We have no way of knowing how widely the public is guided in its food purchases by the Council's seal of acceptance. But the colossal number of food brands bearing the stamp is a gratifying testimonial not only to the essential integrity of the food industry but to the effectiveness of the Council's services.

H. D. KRUSE, M.D.



MOTHERS OF THE SOUTH

WITH the rapid decline in urban birth rates, the attention of students of sociology has been centered on the agricultural areas with high birth rates from which a large proportion of the future population of the country is being recruited. The poverty of the farm areas where birth rates are highest has led to some concern for the quality of the population in these areas. A few writers have expressed the fear that poor areas may be the source of poor stock, and that as urban stocks are replaced by the surplus population of these areas, the quality of the whole population will decline.

Margaret Jarman Hagood, research associate in the Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina, has recently made a study of farm tenant women which affords a new understanding of some of the qualitative characteristics of the tenant population of the cotton and tobacco farms of the southeast.¹ Following a statistical investigation of the population differentials in the southeast,² Mrs. Hagood made repeated friendly visits to a sample of 129 women in the Piedmont

¹ Hagood, Margaret Jarman: *MOTHERS OF THE SOUTH: Portraiture of the White Tenant Farm Woman*. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1939. 252 pp.

² Hagood, Margaret Jarman: *MOTHERS OF THE SOUTH: A Population Study of Native White Women of Childbearing Age in the Southeast*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of North Carolina, 1937.