

IN THIS ISSUE

THE National Health Survey afforded an unusual opportunity to study simple but important aspects of housing adequacy in relation to sickness and accidents among large numbers of urban families in different sections of the country. Some of the outstanding situations are described by Rollo H. Britten, J. E. Brown, and Isidore Altman, of the United States Public Health Service, in their article: "Certain Characteristics of Urban Housing and Their Relation to Illness and Accidents: Summary of Findings of the National Health Survey." The report is divided into five sections concerning: degree of crowding, toilet facilities, illness and crowding, digestive diseases and toilet facilities, and home accidents in relation to rental or value of the home. The authors interpret their findings with care, for it is realized that poor housing is often accompanied by a train of other factors known or believed to be prejudicial to health. The article will be welcomed by the increasing number of students and officials interested in problems of housing and public health.



In a paper, "Economics of the Family Relative to Number of Children," Dr. Frank Lorimer and Mr. Herbert Roback of The American University, present results of their investigation of the effect of added numbers of children in the family on proportion of income spent for specific items, such as food, housing, transportation, medical care, recreation, etc. The data were derived in large part from the Federal Study of Consumer Purchases. The analysis was made separately for three types of communities and within each type of community the families were subdivided into four groups with respect to number of children under sixteen years of age. The results are of basic interest to students of home economics and afford a better understanding of the economic penalties of parenthood in modern society.

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 "Cardiometric Studies on Children, Number 11" Drs. Bert R. Boone and Antonio Ciocco present a statistical analysis of measurements of the duration of the cardiac cycle and first and second sounds from the stethographic records of nearly 1,500 school children. The main objective of these cardiometric studies, conducted by the United States Public Health Service, is to arrive at a means of developing an objective "screening device" to select children who require special attention or care with respect to the heart and circulatory system.



Rheumatic fever cannot at the present time be cured with serums or with medicines. Dr. John R. Paul in a discussion of "Factors in the Occurrence of Rheumatic Fever," in this issue of the Fund's *Quarterly*, recommends improvement of the environment for the rheumatic child as a measure of prevention. Since rheumatic fever is a familial infection efforts to improve the environment should, according to Dr. Paul, be considered from the point of view of the whole family. The geographical distribution of the disease, familial aspects of the disease, rheumatic fever as a city disease and a crowd disease are some of the factors in its occurrence discussed by Dr. Paul.



Because rheumatic disease is a serious form of illness which tends to be chronic and which occurs fairly frequently in young children or in young adults, the problem of its control is a matter of importance to physicians and public health officials. The two conditions which seem to favor rheumatic disease are, as in tuberculosis, familial association with the disease and a generally low standard of living. However, its etiology is not definitely known and its infectivity has not been clearly established. The study "Familial Association and Aggregation in Rheumatic Disease," by Dr. R. L. Gauld and Dr. F. E. M. Read, gives the results of an epidemiological investigation to determine whether or not the attack rate among carefully observed familial associates of cases of rheumatic fever is characteristic of an infectious disease.