

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 Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of North Carolina, 1937.

area of North Carolina. With each mother she discussed in detail the problems of the home and the farm. The result of the visits is a revealing book about southern tenant farm mothers.

Mrs. Hagood discusses in terms of case histories the tenant woman as field worker, housekeeper, wife, community member, and mother. The reader cannot but be impressed with the character of women who, with large families of children to feed and rear,⁸ must find time for field work as well as for cooking, laundering, sewing, and housecleaning; who are striving to give their children more educational opportunities than they themselves have had, and at the same time to rear them with high moral standards. Perhaps their methods of child-rearing would not meet with the approval of modern educators, but the reader cannot fail to appreciate the stamina and ambition of these farm women who, in spite of ruinous poverty, malnutrition, lack of medical care, and inadequate educational facilities, are making a brave fight for what they believe to be a better life for their children.

Mrs. Hagood stresses the need of assistance in medical care, economic security, and educational opportunities to help these mothers overcome almost insuperable obstacles. If her farm women are typical of the group from which they come—and the author appears to have been careful in her sampling techniques—there need be little fear for the innate quality of the southern farm tenants but there must be a real effort to improve their environment through wise agricultural policies and increased facilities for health, recreation, and education.

REGINE K. STIX, M.D.



DEVELOPMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS IN INFECTED CHILDREN

“Is a primary infection with tuberculosis acquired during childhood a relative safeguard against subsequent exposure? Or does the sensitization acquired through such infection result in increased susceptibility to progressive disease?” These questions, which are of great importance to the public health administrator, have been raised by Dr. Alton S.

⁸ “The mean number of children borne per woman is 6.3 but . . . over two-thirds of the children are in families where there are seven or more children.” Hagood, 1939, p. 109.