



IN THIS ISSUE

AT THE Fund's Eighteenth Annual Conference, the Round Table on Population Problems was devoted to the general question, Population Trends and Programs of Social Welfare. In this issue are published the first three of six papers presented at that meeting. The remaining three will appear in a later issue of the *Quarterly* and reprints of these articles will eventually be available in the form of a bound volume. The initial paper of the series was written by Dr. Warren S. Thompson and entitled "Outstanding Population Trends Affecting Problems of Social Welfare." In this introductory discussion Dr. Thompson presents some of the current estimates of the future trends in the size and age composition of our national population. Some of the data thus presented are used as points of departure in the succeeding papers devoted to specific aspects of social welfare.

In the second paper in the series, "Population Trends and Future Problems of Child Welfare," Miss Katharine F. Lenroot and Dr. Robert J. Myers discuss the implications for child welfare of situations such as the decline in aggregate number of children; regional, rural-urban, and class variations in rates of reproduction in relation to community services for children; numbers of children affected by broken homes due to mortality or separation of parents; and trends toward the small family pattern and gainful employment of urban mothers. The main thesis is that declines in aggregate number of children cannot justify curtailment in amount of total funds devoted to child welfare. This situation should rather be viewed as an opportunity to concentrate child welfare activities in regions and in elements of the population characterized at once by high fertility and low economic status. It is among these groups, particularly in certain rural sections, that diets, health facilities, and schools are poorest.

The subject of unequal educational opportunity is discussed more specifically by Dr. Newton Edwards in the third paper, "Population Trends

and Problems of Education.” The author believes that current decline in the aggregate number of elementary school children should facilitate the financing of a more adequate and equitable educational program. The author presents the case for the partial national responsibility of this task. Although the schools tend to be poorest in areas characterized by highest birth rates, it is also true that ratios of school expenditures to income are conspicuously high in the poorest areas. Another reason advanced for national concern over this problem is that many people reared in poor rural areas migrate as young workers and become residents of distant cities.



An important contribution to the epidemiology of tuberculosis has been made in the study “Mortality in the Children of Tuberculous Households” by Dr. Miriam Brailey of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. This paper presents an analysis of the risk of mortality in the children of 138 white and 147 colored families containing an adult with the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis. Children in the colored families had a mortality three or four times greater than among children in the white families. The two groups of families were comparable in most respects and the difference in the risk of mortality suggests that the factor of race is important when a disease such as tuberculosis is considered. This article will be of special interest to those engaged in anti-tuberculosis activities.



Recent studies have shown that differences in the fertility of various social, economic, and religious groups are due mainly to group differences in the prevalence and effectiveness of contraceptive practice and in the prevalence of induced abortion. The uncontrolled fertility of large groups of women varies little. There are, however, fairly wide individual differences and minor group differences in noncontraceptive pregnancy rates. In the paper entitled “Factors Underlying Individual and Group Differences in Uncontrolled Fertility,” Regine K. Stix discusses some of the factors associated with these differences.



Satisfactory evidence on the prevalence of malnutrition and of specific dietary deficiencies is much needed as a basis for sound, effective mea-

tures to raise the nutritional level of our population. However, present methods in general use for appraisal of nutritional status do not provide reliable information on the extent and nature of the nutrition problem. Chemical procedures and other diagnostic tests have been developed in recent years and these have great promise for a new medical approach to the problem of detecting nutritional deficiencies in apparently well persons, such as children attending school. In "Medical Evaluation of Nutritional Status" by H. D. Kruse, Carroll E. Palmer, William Schmidt, and Dorothy G. Wiehl, a cooperative investigation is described which is designed to appraise these newer techniques with reference to their suitability for survey and public health methods.