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QUANTITATIVE information on the vitamin content of foods is an essential for planning diets and, therefore, convenient, up-to-date tables of the vitamin values of common foods are always in demand. The discovery of new vitamins and new information on the chemical identity of vitamins, which leads to refinements in the technique of evaluating foods, are requiring constant changes in tables of vitamin values. To assemble the data which come from many laboratories is a large task. In "Vitamins and Their Occurrence in Foods," Dr. Hazel Munsell not only presents a table giving carefully selected average values for many foods but also reviews the newer knowledge relating to factors which produce variability in the content of a specific food. Methods of cooking have a marked effect on vitamin content of foods at the time they are eaten, but soil, methods of producing, season, storage, and other factors also may be important.



In the last issue of the *Quarterly* there appeared three of the six papers presented at the Round Table on Population Problems, held as part of the Fund's Eighteenth Annual Conference. The concluding three are presented in this issue and bound reprints of the complete symposium will soon be available under the general title, "Population Trends and Programs of Social Welfare." The initial paper in the present group was prepared by Dr. Ewan Clague and entitled "The Aging Population and Programs of Security." The steady rise in the number and proportion of the aged in our population not only increases the gross burden of old-age dependency accruing from present provisions, but also increases the articulate demands and the voting strength of persons past middle age. Dr. Clague appraises several possible methods of handling the problems of dependency of the old and of unemployment among the nearly-old.

In the next paper, "Population Trends and Problems of Public Health," Mr. G. St.J. Perrott and Dr. Dorothy F. Holland discuss the bearing of changing age composition on the future course of public health activities. For suggestive indications of the future volume of illnesses and deaths from chronic conditions and other causes, the authors present figures based upon application of age-specific morbidity and mortality rates to the estimated population, by age, in the decades to come. Similarly, rough estimates are presented concerning trends in the possible needs for various types of medical services in the future.

The concluding paper in this series was written by Dr. Philip Klein under the title, "Adapting Programs of Social Welfare to a Changing Population." Dr. Klein presents his views on the broad economic bases of social problems and stresses the bearing of population changes on the conditions of our economy. He devotes particular attention to current complaints concerning unemployment, restriction of investment opportunities, and expensiveness of public welfare programs. He gives his conception of the type of long-time program that is indicated by current trends in population and by present economic maladjustments.



Among the newer diagnostic tests developed for detecting nutritional deficiencies, instruments for measuring visual dark adaptation have received widespread attention as a method for detecting avitaminosis A. In the second paper from a survey being conducted in New York City, "Medical Evaluation of Nutritional Status," Dr. Eleanor P. Hunt and Dr. Carroll E. Palmer discuss various technical problems involved in the use of the adaptometer developed by Hecht and Schlaer. This report evaluates the accuracy of the instrument and gives the basis for standardizing the results of tests from all similar instruments. Such standardization is extremely important in order that results obtained for different population groups and by different workers in this field may be compared.