

IN THIS ISSUE

THERE is a growing belief that defense needs in this country will serve to crystallize demands for a national population policy, directed in part to the problem of the declining birth rate. Before the War several European countries instituted population policies, and it is obviously of value to learn what we can about those experiences. Detailed descriptions of these experiences are available in scattered sources, mainly in books by D. V. Glass and by Gunnar Myrdal. Dr. G. F. McCleary has performed the valuable service of bringing together in a brief article in this issue a description of the salient features of these programs. Under the title "Pre-War European Population Policies," he discusses in an objective manner the philosophy, provisions, and to some extent the apparent effects of population policies in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden.



Nutritional status of the population is intimately related to its health and vitality. Accordingly, instruction in dietary and other habits which affect nutrition should take an important place in health education. The article, "The Influence of Nutrition Education in Families of the Mulberry Area of New York City"—by Dorothy L. Bovee, formerly of the Community Service Society of New York, and by Jean Downes of the Fund's staff—presents the results of a study of the effectiveness of dietary education in a group of families where there were children under sixteen years of age. The food habits of the children showed significant improvement in all families in which special educational work was done; the improvement in the use of the protective foods was noteworthy.



In the hope of securing a better understanding of the factors underlying human fertility, students of population have increasingly emphasized the need for studies of variations in birth rates *within* as well as *between* broad socio-economic groups. One approach to the study of intra-group

differences in human fertility is to base the classifications upon plural rather than single attributes of socio-economic status. This method has been used in the analysis "Intra-Group Differences in Birth Rates of Married Women" by Clyde V. Kiser. It presents cross-classifications of data for native-white married women of child-bearing age in the National Health Survey. These cross-classifications permit analyses of birth rates by educational attainment, and also by income status, *within occupational groups*. Conversely, the birth rates are presented by occupational class *within educational groups* and also *within income groups*. The collective data are discussed from the standpoint of relative importance of factors associated with fertility.



In the rapid spread of contraceptive services, many of which are now under the auspices of state or local health departments, the policies of the older birth control clinics have been adopted by the newer ones, almost without question. Recent researches by the Fund's staff have revealed the importance of a critical evaluation of these policies.

The first of two articles, dealing with the appraisal of clinics in New York City; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Spartanburg, South Carolina, is published under the title: "Contraceptive Service in Three Areas," Part I, by Regine K. Stix, M.D. It deals with the social and economic backgrounds of the patients of the clinics under consideration and discusses the factors underlying the differences in their fertility before they sought advice at a birth control clinic. A subsequent article, to appear in an early issue of the *Quarterly*, will discuss the services given by the three clinics and the degree to which the services meet the needs of the patients in each area.



Studies have repeatedly indicated that urban Negro marriages are frequently characterized by lower birth rates and much higher proportions of childlessness than are those of comparable groups of whites. Little actual research has been directed to the explanation of this situation. A modest but interesting contribution in this direction is afforded in an article by Mr. Gilbert W. Beebe: "Differential Fertility by Color for Coal Miners in Logan County, West Virginia." There is rather definite evidence that in the sample studied the lower fertility of Negroes cannot be attributed to contraception.