

IN THIS ISSUE

THE fundamental requirements of a program aimed toward eradication of tuberculosis include (1) case finding; (2) hospitalization; and (3) consideration of the social and economic problems of the tuberculous individual and his family. The article "The Importance of Family Problems in the Control of Tuberculosis" by Jean Downes and Clara R. Price describes the nature of the problems of the tuberculous family which are being encountered in the Harlem area of New York City. Hospitalization of the patient and problems of family income were of major importance to the public health nurse in her supervision of the family. The extent to which these and other socio-economic problems are being overcome or solved is presented. The results should be of value to public health workers who are interested in the control of tuberculosis.



In an article "Australia's Population Problem," Dr. G. F. McCleary provides an interesting account of the demographic characteristics of Australia. The population is described as one with relatively high levels of living and with virtually no color problem. The outstanding problem to which the author devotes attention is that of the declining birth rate, a situation similar to that in other countries affected by Western cultures. The author, after long experience in the field of public health in England, has turned his attention to problems of population in recent years. He has had first-hand acquaintance with Australia. The article will be welcomed not only by students of population but also by individuals who wish to learn more about a sister democracy and important ally in the Pacific.



A significant demonstration that the nutrition of the mother during the prenatal period influences not only the whole course of pregnancy but also affects the health of the child during the first months of life is reported on by J. H. Ebbs, F. F. Tisdall, and W. A. Scott in the article "The Influence of Prenatal Diet on the Mother and Child." Pregnancy makes heavy demands on the nutrition of the mother, and failure adequately to provide the added nutritional needs appears to be one important factor in the occurrence of complications during pregnancy and labor, and in the infant's susceptibility to illness.



The question of the relation of maternal age to intelligence of offspring is one with ramifications in the fields of biological and social science, but actual studies of the problem have been few. In an article, "Social Environment as a Modifying Factor in the Correlation between Maternal Age and Intelligence of Offspring," Dr. Pearl Moshinsky presents results from her study of over 4,000 school pupils in London. Two groups were analyzed separately: (1) The "free pupils," mainly from homes of manual workers; and (2) the "fee-payers," mainly from families of higher occupational status. Among the "fee-payers," but not among the "free pupils," mean intelligence scores tended to increase with advancing maternal age. The results confirm the author's hypothesis that social environment should be taken into account in studies of this type because the conditions responsible for late maternal ages are not the same in different social strata.



Nutritive values in diets of over 2,000 adolescent children are appraised in the article "Diets of High School Students of Low-Income Families in New York City" by Dorothy G. Wiehl. In this report from the cooperative study on Medical Evaluation of Nutritional Status, the dietary intake of the individual child of eight essential food elements is compared with amounts recommended as needed to ensure good nutritional status. It was found that from slightly more than one-half to about three-fourths of the group had diets furnishing less than recommended allowances of vitamins A, B₁, B₂ and C, calcium, iron, and calories. Pro-

tein was consumed in more adequate amounts. Diets of many of the children were deficient by more than one-third of the allowance. Thus, 38 per cent had less than two-thirds of the vitamin A allowance; slightly more than one-fourth of the group were similarly deficient in vitamins B₂ and C and calcium; and one-fifth had less than two-thirds of their estimated calorie requirement. A high prevalence of subclinical deficiency conditions among these children has been reported in previous articles in the *Quarterly*. The need for an effective program in high schools for the improvement of dietary habits seems well established.



If the high dietary requirements of the adolescent, growing child are to be fully met, every meal should furnish its full share of all essential nutrients. School cafeterias, therefore, have a responsibility to make available nutritious lunches. Since the vitamins and calcium are the most common nutritional deficiencies, lunches that are rich in these nutrients are especially valuable for improving the nutritive level of diets. Suggestions for school lunches are made by Emily K. Stamm and Dorothy G. Wiehl in the paper entitled "The School Lunch as a Method for Improving the Diets of High School Students."