

IN THIS ISSUE

How well do industrial wage earners in the United States eat? This question quite properly is of considerable concern to those who believe that it is now more important than ever to put into effect all our knowledge of preventive measures in order to maintain the health of the civilian workers essential to the war effort.

To obtain further information on food habits of workers, an investigation was made of the diets of more than 1,000 employes in an aircraft plant. The Study was sponsored by the Committee on Nutrition in Industry of the National Research Council, and findings are reported in an article entitled "Diets of a Group of Aircraft Workers in Southern California" by Dorothy G. Wiehl. Very few of the men in the Study were eating a diet which would fully meet dietary standards recommended by nutrition authorities. The choice of vegetables resulted in too few of the green and yellow varieties which are needed for vitamins, citrus fruits were eaten infrequently, and too little milk was consumed. It is again shown that a diet which satisfies the appetite may fall short of providing the essential nutrients which are required to maintain good nutritional status.



Despite the marked advances in public education in this country during the past fifty years, we have had no adequate data concerning the actual school attainment of our total population. For some decades prior to 1940 the Federal censuses inquired only into the ability of a person to read and write, so the two-fold classification illiterate-literate constituted the sum of official data on this subject. A valuable innovation of the 1940 Census was the inclusion of a question concerning actual number of years of school completed. Dr. Henry S. Shryock of the Bureau of the Census has prepared for this issue a paper "1940 Census Data on Number of Years of School Completed." It is based upon tabulations

available to date for the total population 25 years of age and over, broken down by urban-rural status, nativity and color, sex, and place of residence. Data such as these are of value from many points of view. They are essential to an adequate understanding of the functioning of our people as workers, consumers, and voting citizens.

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In the report "The Experimental Error of Determinations of Ascorbic Acid in Plasma by Micromethod of Mindlin and Butler" by Gilbert W. Beebe, the accuracy of ascorbic acid determinations by the micromethod is compared with the macromethod. This paper from the series in Medical Evaluation of Nutritional Status discusses the procedural conditions under which the minimum error for the micromethod was obtained and shows that the sacrifice of accuracy which the method entails is slight in view of its economical blood requirements.

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