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A REPORT of the discussions at the Round Table on Implications of Population Trends for Postwar Policy, held in 1943 as part of the Twenty-first Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund, has been prepared for this issue by Clyde V. Kiser. This round table was presided over by Frank W. Notestein and the discussions of specific topics were opened by speakers as follows: the demographic outlook (Chairman Notestein's introductory statement); implications of demographic trends in Europe and the U.S.S.R. (Frank Lorimer); implications of the demographic position of minority groups in Europe (Louis I. Dublin); implications of population trends in the Far East (Warren S. Thompson); needed factual bases for pronatalist policies (P. K. Whelpton); and considerations regarding programs of child security (T. J. Woolfer, Jr.). Although space limitations permit little more than digests of these presentations, it is believed that the report appearing in this issue will be of interest to the *Quarterly's* reading audience.



In an article "The Trend of the Birth Rate Among Persons on Different Economic Levels, City of New York, 1929-1942," Mr. Paul H. Jacobson of the New York City Department of Health adduces indications of recent reductions in the differential birth rate between economic groups of the City's white population. The health area is used as the basic unit of study and the average of the 1930 and 1940 median monthly rental values of occupied dwelling units in each health area is used as the basis of classification into five economic groups, ranging from "\$60 and Over" to "Under \$30." The margin between the annual birth rates of these two extreme classes decreased first as a result of greater declines in the rates for the latter group than for the former during the period of the depression. The later and more conspicuous contraction occurred in 1940 and subsequent years as a result of greater increases in birth rates among the "\$60 and Over" group than among the "Under \$30" group.

The uncertainties of population estimates for years following 1940 impose limitations on the data for the most recent years, but the general trend toward contraction of the economic differentials in fertility is in line with results of other investigations.



The diagnostic clinic performs an important function in the program for the control of tuberculosis. It is concerned with the discovery and supervision of cases of the disease in the community which it serves. The report "Three Years' Experience in the Upper Harlem Chest Clinic" by Jean Downes and Neville C. Whiteman, M.D., evaluates work in tuberculosis case finding and describes the supervision of cases in one of the diagnostic clinics in New York City. This report is of special interest because it is an evaluation of certain activities of the clinic in terms of specific objectives; rather than a report of the volume of activities.



The quality of diets is a matter of general interest at this time because of the importance of proper food in maintaining health during the emergency. The article "Food Habits of Families in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore in the Winter and Spring of 1943" by Jean Downes and Anne Baranovsky describes the diets of 943 families before and after the beginning of rationing of processed foods, meats, and fats. In 59 per cent of these families one or more members were engaged in defense work.

Analysis of the diet records according to the age of the housewife indicated that young families had better diets than did older families. A relatively high proportion of all families used an "unsatisfactory" amount of milk and had green or yellow vegetables less frequently than recommended. There was no evidence that rationing had an adverse effect upon the food habits of the family.

Comparison of the use of various types of foods by the same families at two different periods indicated considerable variation in use although there was some relationship between the levels of use in the two periods.