

IN THIS ISSUE

At the Fund's Twenty-second Annual Conference the Round Table on "New Steps in Public Health" devoted its sessions to a discussion of present problems of public health and how the problems can be solved. Four papers, illustrating the needs of various groups in the community for relief from illness and disability and for disease prevention and health promotion, served as a background for the discussion. These papers appear in this issue. The remaining papers, which deal with various approaches to solutions of the problems of public health, will be published in the January, 1945, *Quarterly*.

The first paper of the series, "Findings of the Study of Chronic Disease in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore," by Jean Downes of the Fund's staff, presents a discussion of illness and disability of persons with chronic disease and of the other members of their families. These families formed about one-fourth of the total observed population. Illness rates related to the family as a unit indicated that persons in chronic disease families had 54 per cent of the total illnesses, 40 per cent of the total hospitalizations, and received about 50 per cent of the medical care for illness given to the total population. It is apparent that illness is an especially heavy burden to certain families.

"The Peckham Experiment," a pioneer health center established in London in 1926, was discussed by Dr. George Baehr. Because of dissatisfaction with preventive medical work, this particular health center was established to provide preventive medical services to family units, rather than to casual individuals. Dr. Baehr describes the unique qualities of the experiment and discusses some of its results which may have a bearing upon the solution of problems of public health in this country.

The findings of the present Selective Service examinations have indicated a pressing need to build a healthy population. About 45 per cent of the young men examined were rejected for Army service for physical or mental reasons. The leading causes of rejection for service in the

present war and for service in World War I are discussed in some detail by Mr. George St. John Perrott. The implications of the data, as pointed out by Mr. Perrott, should promote the planning of health services so that future generations of young men and women may have the maximum possible health and vigor.

Malnutrition as an industrial health problem is discussed by Dorothy G. Wiehl of the Fund's staff in an article on "Recent Findings on Nutritional Status of Industrial Workers." Both dietary surveys and health examinations have revealed a high prevalence of dietary inadequacies among employees in industrial plants. Conditions mentioned which contribute to unsatisfactory diets include ignorance of dietary needs, the widespread habit of eating little or no breakfast, the poor quality of mid-shift meals due sometimes to improper choice of foods but often to grossly inadequate food services in and near industrial plants. It is suggested that industrial management should assist in developing programs for the promotion of better nutrition among workers.



The July *Quarterly* carried four of the seven papers presented at the Round Table on Demographic Studies of Selected Areas of Rapid Growth, held in connection with the Fund's Twenty-second Annual Conference. The remaining three papers are published in this issue, and bound volumes of the total series will soon be available.

Two of the papers in this issue are devoted to population problems in Egypt and the third to general problems of policy in relation to areas of heavy population pressure. In "The Demographic Position of Egypt" Dr. Clyde V. Kiser presents the factual materials regarding growth and increasing density of population, the high rates of fertility and mortality, and the accompanying problems of poverty and illiteracy in Egypt's Nile Valley. This paper is followed by "A Population Plan for Egypt," by Dr. W. Wendell Cleland, of the faculty of the American University at Cairo since 1917. Although he offers specific proposals for rehabilitation, Dr. Cleland also emphasizes the great difficulties of their execution. One difficulty is the apathy of the people themselves, owing to acute poverty, widespread illiteracy, and the enervating effects of worm diseases common in that area.

The concluding paper in this series, "Problems of Policy in Relation to Areas of Heavy Population Pressure," was prepared by Dr. Frank W.

Notestein, who served as Chairman of the Round Table mentioned above. This paper, in contrast to Dr. Cleland's, offers no specific prescriptions for specific countries. Instead, it deals in principle with a number of countries in which pressure of population on resources is already high, in which a high growth potential is negated only by high mortality, and in which population growth will impede the future economic and political development. For areas of this type, Dr. Notestein discusses the demographic situation, the possibilities for checking growth, solutions to the problems of pressure, and general implications of these factors for policy.