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DIETARY studies have shown that a large proportion of industrial workers consume diets which furnish much less than recommended amounts of the principal vitamins, and clinical studies on nutritional status have revealed that deficiency states in various stages but below the level of classical deficiency diseases are very prevalent. Such data have directed attention to the question "What benefits would result from a balanced, adequate diet or from the correction of deficiency states by administering vitamin therapy?" The findings presented by Dr. Henry Borsook in a report on "Effects of Vitamin Supplementation on Absenteeism, Turnover, and Personnel Ratings" which is the third paper from an investigation of "Nutritional Status of Aircraft Workers in Southern California," are an important contribution in the assembling of evidence on the results of vitamin therapy.

In this investigation, six vitamins and calcium were given to one group and placebos to a control group for a period of nine to twelve months. The groups had similar personnel ratings at the beginning of the study, nonmilitary terminations of employment were approximately equal in the first few months, and absenteeism did not differ significantly during the first six months. In the second six months, absenteeism from all causes was 19 per cent less for employes receiving the vitamins than for those receiving the placebos; for the twelve-month period, nonmilitary terminations were 27 per cent fewer in the vitamin group than in the placebo group; and personnel ratings at the end of the study were significantly higher on the average for the vitamin subjects than for placebo subjects. It is of interest that a difference in absenteeism occurred only in the second six months, a fact which suggests that a fairly long therapy period is needed before effects are manifested in performance. Furthermore, most of the reduction in absenteeism was in causes other than specific illness or diseases, and this, together with higher personnel ratings, seems

to indicate that therapy resulted in an improved feeling of well-being or in what has been termed industrial morale.



The nutritional welfare of workers in war industries has received special attention from the national governments, both in the United States and Canada. The administrative organization of the Federal agencies charged with the promotion of nutrition programs in industry and the services given and some of the accomplishments are reviewed by Dr. Robert S. Goodhart for the United States, and by Dr. L. B. Pett for Canada, in the article entitled "The War-Time Nutrition Programs for Workers in the United States and Canada." In addition to extensive diet education programs for workers, the government agencies have given much technical assistance in planning with management for adequate in-plant food-service facilities and have furnished scientific advice on menus and methods of cooking for large numbers of persons. Both management and governments are expected to continue their interest in industrial feeding programs after the war.



Various studies have been made which indicate that the length of life of offspring is related to that of their parents. A further investigation of this subject in a relatively homogeneous rural population is presented in the paper, "Length of Life of Parents and Offspring in a Rural Community," by Sally Preas. Offspring of long-lived parents were found to have an advantage over those of short-lived parents with respect to the age at which death occurred. Interesting differences in causes of death were found between the offspring of the long-lived and the short-lived parents and also between the two groups of parents.