

except in so far as certain extreme cases are concerned. She therefore believes it essential "to take every possible step to level up the worse environments to the standard of the better ones" (p. 42).

Whether or not this little booklet provides any harbinger of the character of Great Britain's future population policies, it at least suggests that there is a broad base of progressive thinking in that country. It will behoove students of our own country to watch and study developments of population policy in England, for our own country, too, may experience declining numbers before many decades.

CLYDE V. KISER



WORLD POPULATION IN TRANSITION

THE most impressive thing about this volume¹ is the testimony it bears to the large number of scholars of the first rank who are devoting themselves intensively and objectively to the study of population and its problems. Merely to list those who have contributed to this book, with their respective subjects, would consume a large part of the space allotted to this review.

As Dr. Davis points out in his Foreword, "The study of population offers one of the unique and indispensable approaches to an understanding of world affairs." Nothing is more important than that those who are destined to exercise leadership in world affairs in the immediate future should be dynamically aware of this truth, and the volume in hand should be of great value in bringing this to pass, as well as in providing a concise body of data on which such leadership can be based.

The studies themselves fall into four logical categories. The first and last contain only one essay each. The first is an over-all review by Dr. Davis of the changing demographic phenomena the world over. The last, by Frank Lorimer, is an analysis of the population policies, actual and potential, of various countries, specifically Germany, Sweden, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

The second section consists of a number of regional studies by authors of established reputation, covering the United States, South America,

¹ Davis, Kingsley (Editor): *World Population in Transition*. The *Annals* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Philadelphia, January, 1945, Vol. 237, pp. viii + 203, \$2.00 (paper), \$2.50 (cloth).

Central and Caribbean America, postwar Europe, Russia, Japan, China and Southeastern Asia, the British Overseas Dominion, and the Mohammedan world, and a special study dealing with the demographic consequences of European contact with primitive peoples. All but the last of this group are primarily factual, and even statistical, and taken together furnish an admirable compendium of up-to-date material for students approaching the subject from many different angles. Some of this material has previously appeared in other forms, but it acquires new value from its consolidation with related inquiries.

The remaining section comprises several specialized studies of such problems as fertility, longevity, mortality, morbidity, migration, and the level of living. Here, likewise, the authors speak with authority, and this group offers in an outstanding manner a clear presentation of some of the recognized principles that need to be taken into account by the framers of a new and more peaceful world order.

It would be obviously impossible to undertake any summary, or even any detailed criticism, of such a comprehensive and varied group of studies. If attention is called to a few flaws, it is only to provide a little salutary relief to the encompassing praise that has already been administered. More than one of the authors falls into the common error of using the term "stability" to refer to a demographic situation where the birth rate and the death rate are equal, or the net replacement rate is 1.00. The correct term should be "balance" or "stationary condition," unless there is some ground for believing that the situation is not going to change for a considerable time. The concept of stability involves some degree of permanence.

In his statement on page 8, "If the Asiatics come with the traits of modern civilization, there is little reason to exclude them any more than any other people," Dr. Davis goes a little too far in assuming that the general populace of immigrant-receiving countries is as ready to disregard racial differences as some anthropologists are. If there is, as he says a little later on, a "confusion between race and culture" it will have a bearing on the desirability of immigration, no matter how unsound it may be scientifically.

Also, one cannot help questioning the value of giving a whole page (41) to an asymptotic curve based on less than fifty years of census figures and a little over a century of "different estimations."

But these are only tiny gnats in a large jar of ointment.

The treatment throughout the book is almost exclusively quantitative, in the sense that little attention is given to the "eugenic," or biological, considerations of quality. And this is as it should be, in the interest of coherence and unity. The available space is crammed as it is.

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