

IN THIS ISSUE

THE fourth paper in the series of reports on an investigation of "Nutritional Status of Aircraft Workers in Southern California" discusses "Effects of Vitamin Supplementation on Clinical, Instrumental, and Laboratory Findings, and Symptoms." This report by Dr. Henry Borsook, Jacob Dubnoff, Geoffrey Keighley, and Dorothy G. Wiehl describes the diagnostic procedures used in an examination to detect nutritional deficiencies in over five hundred persons, half of whom were given a six-vitamin and calcium supplement and the other half a placebo for nine to twelve months, and compares these two groups with respect to their nutritional status before and after the administration of supplements.

Evidence of the effect of therapy on modification of physical or anatomical signs noted before therapy was begun or on differences between therapy and placebo subjects at the end of the therapy period with respect to prevalence of various signs is evaluated for the following: vitamin A deficiency—follicular hyperkeratosis and loss of conjunctival transparency; thiamin deficiency—abnormalities in reflexes, calf muscle tenderness, plantar dysesthesia, and loss of vibratory sensibility; riboflavin (or vitamin B complex) deficiency—cheilosis and other skin manifestations, and corneal vascularization; niacin (or vitamin B complex) deficiency—tongue abnormalities. At the end of the therapy period, persons who had received vitamins had a lower prevalence of follicular hyperkeratosis and of tongue abnormalities and had a greater improvement in conjunctival transparency than those who received placebos. For these signs, the data are suggestive of a positive therapeutic effect, but for all others there was no evidence of any response to therapy. Medical histories obtained at the end of the Study also showed no symptomatic superiority for persons who received the vitamin supplement.



Numerous writers have noticed that Latin America is more disposed to urban living than other regions with a similar paucity of industry. But no comprehensive study has been made of this tendency. An effort in this direction has been made by Dr. Kingsley Davis and Miss Ana Casis in their study "Urbanization in Latin America," the first part of which appears in this issue. In this first article the authors relate the growth of cities to regional differences and problems in Latin America. They consider the causes and consequences of urban expansion and give some special attention to the situation in Argentina. The second part, scheduled for a later issue, considers certain basic characteristics of city, as contrasted with rural, populations in Latin America. The study affords a contribution to Latin American demography and sociology.