



IN THIS ISSUE

IT is well known that Greece experienced a severe famine following the occupation of the country by the Germans in 1941. Although conditions later improved somewhat, this country continued to have serious shortages of food throughout the war years. "Some Effects of Famine on the Population of Greece" by Dr. V. G. Valaoras gives some statistics on deaths and births during the famine period and also presents data on heights and weights of children which show that, as a result of their prolonged undernutrition, the children became both markedly underweight and undersized for their age. Infants and very young children apparently received fairly adequate food.



A succinct and interesting paper, "Wartime Population Changes in the United States," has been contributed for this issue by Dr. Conrad Taeuber. "While fighting the costliest war in history," the author states, "the United States increased its population more rapidly than in prewar years. There was no active program for promoting this population growth, and no basis in past experience for expecting it to occur." Nevertheless, the author manages to bring into brief compass an enlightening factual description of wartime changes in birth and death rates and in rural-urban and regional distribution of the population. The possible significance of these demographic changes for the future is discussed.



Four reports from the investigation on Nutritional Status of Aircraft Workers in Southern California have been published in previous issues of the *Quarterly* and have given our readers a mass of detailed data on the results of this study. In the current issue, the final paper in the series "A Conspectus of the Survey and Its Field" is presented.

Dr. H. Borsook and Dorothy G. Wiehl not only have summarized the findings of this special study but also have sought to suggest, on the basis of these findings and the results of many other studies, the present status of the evidence related to methods of diagnosis of mild deficiency diseases and to the important problem of determining the ill effects of such diseases or the benefits of "optimal" nutritional status.



In the first part of the article "Urbanization in Latin America," published in the last issue of the *Quarterly*, Dr. Kingsley Davis and Miss Ana Casis attempted to explain why Latin America is more urbanized than other regions with similar paucity of industry. In the second part, published in this issue, Miss Casis and Dr. Davis discuss certain traits of the urban and rural populations in Latin America. This section is concerned mainly with rural-urban differentials in birth and death rates, age distributions, sex ratios, marital status, illegitimacy, and literacy. Pointing out that the trend toward urbanization shows no slackening, the authors believe that with further industrialization the cultural characteristics of the cities will soon become those of the rural population and that the gulf between city and country eventually will be no wider than in the United States today.