

age and on proportions employed at different ages for four occupational classes according to the 1940 Census.

The dependents of a man may be protected against the loss of his future earnings in case of death by life insurance. During his life, a wage-earner may suffer considerable wage loss for a number of reasons, especially as a result of physical impairments or handicaps which reduce earning ability and of disabling illness and accidents which result in loss of wages and often in a large expenditure for medical care. The extensive data on impairments, disabling illness, and costs of medical care collected during the past twenty years are summarized in this new edition by Dublin and Lotka. Through prevention of many diseases public health has reduced the economic loss to the family from these causes, and the economic value of public health is clearly shown. The various forms of social insurance developed to protect the wage-earner and his family are described in a chapter on Social Insurance in Relation to the Money Value of a Man.

As a source of unique data on the economic value of man's productive years of life and also of much social and health data, this book should be invaluable to professional health and social workers.

DOROTHY G. WIEHL

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### HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK<sup>1</sup>

THE fourth edition of the HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK contains abstracts of 384 articles appearing in scientific, statistical, medical and public health journals from July, 1945 through June, 1946. The author, Oliver E. Byrd, an Associate Professor of Hygiene at Stanford University, integrates and briefly summarizes the material included in the abstracts at the beginning of each of the twenty-one chapters. The chapter headings, including such titles as, "Health as a Social Problem," "Nutrition and Health," "Mental Health and Disease," "Infection and Immunity," "Health Services and Facilities,"

<sup>1</sup> Byrd, Oliver E.: HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK, 1946. Stanford University Press, 1946, 399 pp. \$3.00.

"Trends and Possibilities," are the same as in the third edition, with one additional chapter called "International Health."

The paucity of information on health conditions in many countries throughout the period of the war makes the inclusion of the chapter on "International Health" in this edition of particular interest to the public health worker. Many of the references were obtained from the Epidemiological Information Bulletin, correspondents of the American Medical Association, and representatives of such agencies as United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the majority are concerned with reports on the prevalence of epidemic diseases.

The book has a complete bibliography for the abstracts included and both an author and a subject index. A more complete system of indexing subjects would be helpful for quick reference. The classification of the chapter headings is broad and there is considerable overlapping of the problems as the author recognizes when he says, "A discussion of the problems of health which have social significance is not confined to this chapter for it is apparent that in a society as closely integrated as that of the world today there can be little or no personal illness that does not influence in one manner or another the health of other individuals" (p. 19). One should be justified then in expecting the index to serve as a guide for locating a particular subject in any part of the book. But that is not always possible. For example, one of the chapter titles is "Nutrition and Health." There appears in the chapter "School Health" an abstract of a report on a nutrition survey in the Florida schools, yet the subject "Nutrition" is not listed in the index.

Despite this shortcoming which is common to many books, the HEALTH INSTRUCTION YEARBOOK will prove a timely and convenient reference book for the shelf of the health worker who desires to keep abreast of his subject when new material in the field of medicine and public health is being presented in ever increasing numbers in journals and periodicals today.

KATHARINE BERRY