

IN THIS ISSUE

THE world-wide food shortage has highlighted the international picture in these postwar years and the importance to the world situation of national and international food policies which will contribute to the realization of freedom from want for all peoples is clearly evident. But this is not a new problem and in the depression years, before the recent World War, under the auspices of the League of Nations, the need to raise food standards throughout the world and to rehabilitate agriculture and world food markets had been discussed. Today these problems are more acute. At the Joint Conference of the Canadian Public Health Association and the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, held in Quebec May 21st, Dr. Frank G. Boudreau presented a paper on "Nutrition in War and Peace," which is published in the following pages. Pointing out that adequate nutrition is fundamental to good health, Dr. Boudreau urges professional public health workers to accept a responsibility in shaping nutrition policies which go to the heart of the problem, and in building a national and international nutrition program which will eliminate malnutrition. To accomplish such aims, Dr. Boudreau suggests that national food administrations should be continued and that national and state health administrations should have divisions of nutrition.



Activities directed to improvement of the nutritional status of the public are in the process of developing to include many services in addition to the educational activities which have done so much to spread knowledge of nutritious diets to the public and to assist special groups with dietary and budgetary problems. The school lunch has become an accepted activity in

many communities. Fortification of flour to enhance its nutritive value was practiced on a national scale during the War and continuance of the program is now required by law in twenty-one states. Problems of distribution and storage of foods and methods of cooking in large quantities to preserve their nutritive values have received increasing attention together with programs for applying the information to improve food services in industrial cafeterias, in institutions, and the like. These are broad, general approaches affecting the general public or large groups on a mass basis. There is a growing recognition of the value and importance of nutrition services for special groups, such as pregnant women, persons exposed to toxic substances, and those with certain illnesses; and there is an increasing awareness of the need to study the prevalence of specific types of nutritional deficiencies and the factors associated with their occurrence, in order to give more direct and intensive service where it is most needed.

Health department activities related to the manifold aspects of a comprehensive nutrition program were discussed at the Round Table on "A New Approach to Nutrition Services in State Health Departments," at the Fund's 1946 Annual Conference. Three reports read at the Round Table are published in this issue of the *Quarterly*. "New Types of Activity for Nutrition Services in Public Health," by Dr. Walter Wilkins, is a general discussion of undeveloped activities in which he stressed the need for better epidemiological studies of nutrition. In "A Modern Nutrition Program in State Health Departments," Dr. Vlado A. Getting describes the services provided by the Massachusetts Department of Health, and the methods used to coordinate its work with that of other departments, and to assist and stimulate district and local activities. The subject of the third paper, by Dr. Robert S. Goodhart, is "Some Suggestions on the Organization and Functions of State Health Department Nutrition Programs for Workers."



The two preceding issues of the *Quarterly* carried eight of the eleven papers presented at the Round Table on Postwar Problems of Migration, held in connection with the Fund's 1946

Annual Conference. The remaining three appear in this issue and the total series of papers will soon be available in bound form.

Each of the three papers in this issue is concerned with internal migration within this country. In "Wartime Shifts of Civilian Population," Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr. discusses the extent and character of nonmilitary migration since 1940, largely on the basis of sample surveys conducted by the Bureau of the Census during the postcensal years. He considers the origins and destinations of migrants, the pull of the congested production areas, the characteristics of the migrants, and the permanence of the wartime migrations.

Dr. Ira De. A. Reid presents the next paper, "Special Problems of Negro Migration During the War." He summarizes the existing data regarding volume and direction of the movement and discusses some of the implications. Whereas World War I helped to bring Negroes to the North, War II brought thousands to the West as well as to the North. "For the first time," according to Dr. Reid, "Negroes, Japanese-Americans, and Orientals are meeting at migration crossroads and becoming potential victims of further economic exploitation and maladjustment." Hence, "the development of social machinery wherewith to effect democratic adjustments in human relations has become a critical problem."

In the last paper, "Projection of Urban Growth and Migration to Cities in the United States," Drs. Philip M. Hauser and Hope T. Eldridge undertake "First, to project to the year 2000 the urban population of the Nation and the future population of places having 100,000 inhabitants or more; second, to project to the same period the volume of net migration to cities." They emphasize that the results are not predictions, but simply projections of what would happen under explicitly stated assumptions. Different assumptions are laid down for "low," "medium," and "high" estimates. The results at least delimit the ranges of possibilities under widely different assumptions.