

wonders why the normal weight tables included in previous editions have been omitted.

DOROTHY G. WIEHL



### THE MONEY VALUE OF A MAN<sup>1</sup>

SINCE 1930, when Dublin and Lotka published the first edition of *THE MONEY VALUE OF A MAN*, this book has proved its value to health administrators, as well as to other professional groups concerned with the problem of setting a value on human life and disabilities. The new and completely revised edition now available will be welcomed by former users and should gain many new users of the important data which is so ably presented.

The specific objective of the book is to furnish estimates for the *average* man of "the present value of his net future earnings, *i.e.*, of his gross future earnings less that part which is expended on himself" (p. 70). Obviously, the amount of future earnings varies according to earning capacity (wages) of the man, his present age and expectation of life. Therefore, tables are presented which give present value of gross and net future earnings for a man of each year of age from 21 to 64 years at sixteen different earning levels and at three levels of mortality, average mortality for 1939-1941, above and below average.

But estimates of the money value of the average man do not constitute the only data of interest in this book. Much basic data had to be collected for computation of the gross and net values and the authors' discussion of these data and related information furnishes a comprehensive description of a number of social and economic conditions as well as of mortality trends in the United States. For example, a chapter on *The American Family* (new to this edition) gives material on age at marriage, marriage rates, size of family, chances of widowhood, and on number of orphans; and a second new chapter on *Income in Relation to Age and Economic Status* presents data on sources of family income, on variation of annual earnings according to

<sup>1</sup> Dublin, Louis I. and Lotka, Alfred J.: *THE MONEY VALUE OF A MAN*. New York, The Ronald Press Company, 1946, Revised Edition, 214 pp. \$6.00.

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.

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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.