

IN THIS ISSUE

IN "Mental Hygiene and Socio-Environmental Factors," R. H. Felix, Medical Director and Chief, and R. V. Bowers, Social Science Research Consultant, of the Mental Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, present a review of the present status of our knowledge on the relation of environmental factors to mental health and mental disorders and discuss various types of research which are much needed to furnish basic information for the improvement of preventive and therapeutic measures. This is the fourth in a series of papers from a Round Table on Backgrounds of Social Medicine which was part of the 1947 Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund.

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The program of medical and other health services developed in New Zealand during the past ten years is being watched with interest by many persons in this country and elsewhere. Under the Social Security Act of 1938, the state pays for medical, pharmaceutical, hospital, and some other services which are available to every citizen of New Zealand without means test of any kind. Such a service is unique and is, in a sense, an "experiment" in a social field in which complex and difficult problems are pressing for a solution. A report on the program and its operation, written by Hugh MacLean, M.D., and Dean E. McHenry, Ph.D., is published in the following pages under the title "Medical Services in New Zealand." As a fellow of the Carnegie Corporation, Dr. McHenry spent a year in New Zealand on sabbatical leave from the University of California in Los Angeles, where he is Associate Professor of Political Science and Dean of Social Sciences; and Dr. MacLean, a phy-

sician and surgeon now in Los Angeles who formerly practiced in Saskatchewan, Canada, also spent several months in New Zealand on their study of health services under the Social Security Act. The expressed purpose of the authors is to produce an objective survey and appraisal of the New Zealand health program. The authors are entirely responsible for the facts given in their report and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the editors of the *Quarterly*.



The series of articles appearing under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility" is continued in this issue. These studies are based upon a large amount of data collected in Indianapolis from a group of native-white couples meeting specific requirements for the Study. In the eighth article of the series, "The Comparative Influence on Fertility of Contraception and Impairments of Fecundity," P. K. Whelpton and Clyde V. Kiser present estimates of the relative importance of voluntary and involuntary factors in accounting for the differences between (a) the observed fertility levels of the group, and (b) the computed maximum fertility of the group if no contraception were practiced and if all couples were "normal or above" in fecundity. The authors also estimate the relative influence of voluntary and involuntary factors in childlessness.