

The deviant position of Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe generally, from the patterning of population that followed the course of the vital revolution in Western and Northern Europe is considered although, in this connection, the companion volume by Frank Lorimer should be consulted for greater detail. Kirk concludes "that the countries of this region will be able to close up some of the more obvious gaps between this region and the West in the coming years," since "they are at the stage of development in which the cheap gains are to be made," particularly in respect to saving of lives, and since efforts towards rapid industrialization which precede the vital revolution "swim with the strongest of social trends."

In summary, the excellence of Kirk's study derives chiefly from the skillful organization of masses of empirical data around important sociological concepts. The data are handled with methodological sophistication. The book is exceptionally well-written. The charts and maps, beautifully executed by Daphne Notestein, not only supplement but at times supplant the text.

The book suffers from a few minor defects. A technical appendix, in which the reliability of data and estimates was more thoroughly discussed, would have enhanced the value of the volume for other investigators. In spite of the lavish use of chapter subheadings, an index should have been included. And the several "identification" maps which are presented without either alphabetical key or diacritical marks do not serve the purpose of "identifying" place names very efficiently.

DOROTHY SWAINE THOMAS



NUTRITION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE¹

THIS new and thoroughly revised edition of a book on nutrition which has an established place as a textbook should be warmly welcomed by many old and new students of the subject. The rapid growth in the science of nutrition has required the authors to make frequent revisions and this tenth edition since

¹ Cooper, Lenna F.; Barber, Edith M.; and Mitchell, Helen S.: *NUTRITION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE*. J. B. Lippincott Company, 1947, Tenth Edition, 729 pages.

1928 includes much new material, discusses the newer findings on deficiency diseases and the interrelationship of other diseases and malnutrition, and gives the most up-to-date data on the nutrient content of foods.

As *NUTRITION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE* is designed primarily as a textbook for nurses, the authors have presented many different aspects of diet and nutrition in readable and nontechnical language. Chemical terms are defined and formulae for the vitamins, etc. are not given. The scope of the book is suggested by the titles of the four parts into which it is divided: Part I, Principles of Nutrition, 215 pages; Part II, Diet in Disease, 173 pages; Part III, Food Selection and Preparation, 178 pages; and Part IV, Tabular Material and Special Tests.

Not only nurses but homemakers and others interested in understanding nutritional needs and the physiological aspects of nutrition will find this book an excellent introduction to the subject. It is also a useful handbook for planning meals for any purpose, from meals for the healthy of any age to therapeutic diets for the sick. Many recipes are given as well as advice on methods of cooking and on the handling and storage of foods. The discussion of the relation of diet to specific diseases is unusually complete. An excellent index facilitates use of the book for reference.

DOROTHY G. WIEHL

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THE APPLICATION OF EXPERIENCE IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY TO THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION

OUR knowledge of the physiology of human reproduction and of the biochemical factors controlling it is still fragmentary. The National Committee on Maternal Health, recognizing that valuable research on the fertility of mammals has been going on for many years in the field of animal husbandry, invited a group of experimental biologists with special experience in this field to meet with interested physicians early in 1946, and to present to them some of the results of recent