

growth. The bases are laid for a population policy for the future. First, it is assumed an attempt will be made to maintain our numbers at a maximum which will be reached in about three decades. A second assumption is that our present democratic system will continue; third, that little can be done to change the hereditary quality of the people; fourth, that it is socially desirable "for practically all people to participate in producing the next generation on as nearly an equal basis as possible"; and last, that enough is known regarding the causes of the decline in the birth rate to permit a policy to be formulated. The author prefers that family assistance for the benefit of children in the United States be in the form of community services rather than cash.

That nebulous concept, the *optimum* population, managed to find its way into the book, even though it had to wait until the last paragraph. The use of the term has, unfortunately, encouraged some estimates of economic *optimum* which, though merely guesses, have been accepted by many as having the stamp of authority. Better than any such guesses are the author's concluding remarks, ". . . national population policies should take account of the different values which give life its meaning among different peoples. However, the *satisfactory adjustment* of numbers to resources is by no means the only important element in a population policy, although discussions of policy often leave the impression that this is the case."

MORTIMER SPIEGELMAN

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POPULATION ANALYSIS

"I HAVE attempted to summarize what is known about the subject of population and to describe the methods and techniques by which that knowledge has been attained," states Dr. T. Lynn Smith in the opening paragraph of his book, *POPULATION ANALYSIS*.¹ While he admits that "the bulk of the data pertains to the United States" he also states, ". . . no effort has been spared to assemble comparable information

¹ Smith, T. Lynn: *POPULATION ANALYSIS*. New York, McGraw Hill Book Co., 1948, xiii + 421 pp., \$4.50.

from other portions of the world. . . ." He further says that he is attempting deliberately to avoid a "pathological emphasis" on the subject but rather is instituting an analytical point of view. He discounts any danger of over-population in the United States, stating that "mankind is not at the crossroads from the demographic standpoint. . . ." His preoccupation with analytic materials also leads him to reject the need for introducing the ". . . philosophical and speculative phases of the subject" in a text book specifically directed to undergraduates.

In order to achieve these purposes the volume has been divided into six main sections; five of these are concerned mainly with sources and evaluation of published materials and with methods of analysis and presentation of data on the following subjects: the number and distribution of the population; the composition of the population; the vital processes; migration; and the growth of the population. The sixth section, three pages, is devoted to conclusions. Actually, despite the professed emphasis on methodology much of the book is more descriptive than analytical.

From a technical point of view the book has many good points. For instance, it adequately describes the methods of computing the vital rates. However, the graphic methods of presentation deserve some comments. The principal forms used are maps of the United States with globes or circles superimposed to show certain demographic variations by State. By its very nature the circle is little adapted to this type of presentation, and the globe is less satisfactory. When one considers that a circle increases with the square of its radius and a globe with the cube of its radius the inadequacy of these devices becomes apparent. Even with scales shown, it is difficult to make more than the vaguest estimates of exactly what information is given. In the reviewer's opinion, it is better to use many symbols rather than increase the size of one symbol to give the quantitative information of the type frequently presented in this book. The map showing distribution of the rural nonfarm population by county (p. 34), for instance, affords only the most general inferences. In addition, the student who is not

already aware of the specific attributes of the more populous states in the union would find it quite difficult, if not impossible, to relate the circles on some of the maps to the states to which they refer. On the whole, I found this type of presentation quite unsatisfactory.

In addition, there are a number of curve-line graphs purporting to show continuous relative indices of one sort or another, such as the "relative importance of each age group" in certain segments of the population (p. 106). As in the other case these charts tend to confuse rather than to simplify. Furthermore, much of the information shown in this manner appears to be superfluous if not irrelevant.

The data are so largely restricted to the United States that those given for other countries appear to afford, in most cases, only interesting sidelights. Even for the United States, some of the data are unnecessarily antiquated. The discussion of labor force is based only on statistics from the Sixteenth Census, ignoring the Monthly Report on the Labor Force, which has been published since 1940. The absence of these more recent data makes much of the descriptive material obsolete. In the same way the post war trends of the birth rate appear to have been omitted.

Some statements made in rather axiomatic form seem to be open to question. For example, Chapter 3 opens with the statement, "The modern census uses a classification of the population by race and nativity as a primary subdivision in its tabulations." Except for countries of heavy immigration, censuses that do use the classification, especially nativity, rarely use it as a primary breakdown, and few crossclassifications are in this medium. For other countries, it is hardly "indispensable."

Within many sections one finds suggestions of an anti-urban bias on the part of the author, for example, the implicit argument for rurality as an indicator of the "assimilability of foreign stocks."

The author expresses a desire to use this information in the formulation of policies, yet there is little discussion of population policy past, present, or future.

For a compendium of information contained in the sixteenth census and for a history of the United States census this book should be adequate. It would be a much better book if it had wider coverage, more recent information, and a background of some expressed theoretical framework.

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SOCIAL MEDICINE: ITS DERIVATIONS AND OBJECTIVES¹

A BASIC concept of the field of social medicine—the importance of consideration of social as well as natural science factors in provision for illness and health—was given definite expression at a conference sponsored by The New York Academy of Medicine in 1947. Discussion centered on the following subjects:

1. Changing concepts of the relation of medicine to society.
2. Social medicine: its differentiation from and relation to clinical and preventive medicine.
3. Epidemiology in social medicine.
4. The place of nutrition in social medicine.
5. Social psychiatry and social medicine.
6. Social applications of psychiatry.
7. Social medicine: the appeal of the common man.

The papers presented are available in the book *SOCIAL MEDICINE: ITS DERIVATIONS AND OBJECTIVES*. Certain highlights of the book are noted in the paragraphs which follow.

Dr. Owsei Temkin gave the first paper on changing concepts of the relation of medicine to society. He indicated that in ancient Greece physicians had few social responsibilities. However, during the Middle Ages they began to assume some responsibility toward the community. In the sixteenth century

¹ *SOCIAL MEDICINE: ITS DERIVATIONS AND OBJECTIVES*. The New York Academy of Medicine Institute on Social Medicine, 1947. Edited by Iago Galdston, M.D. New York, The Commonwealth Fund, 1949, 294 pages.

Also, London, Oxford University Press, Geoffrey Cumberledge.