



IN THIS ISSUE

EXTREME undernutrition of large population groups in some regions of the world is recognized as one of the causes of unrest in the less favored nations. Improvement of food supplies in such areas is a major task of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which consequently has engaged in comprehensive studies of available foods and their distribution among various populations of the world. Data from these studies are presented in "Changes in World Consumption of Calories and Proteins Over the Last Decade" by Charlotte Chatfield, Marjorie L. Scott, and Jean Mayer, members of the Nutrition Division of the FAO. This report shows that populations have increased faster than the world supply of foods during the past decade with the result that the average amounts available per person have decreased and that the maldistribution of available supplies has become more acute.



That tuberculosis cases increase among populations affected by serious food shortages has been demonstrated repeatedly. During World War II, large groups of the population of France were subjected to periods of semi-starvation with the usual rise in tuberculosis morbidity and mortality. Intensive studies of the nutritive state of groups of persons exposed to famine conditions, especially those in institutions, afforded data on clinical and biochemical changes that occurred on known diets and were associated with the spread of tuberculous infection. Evidence on the importance of protein deficiency in lowering resistance to tuberculosis is presented in the article on "The Relation of Protein Scarcity and Modification of Blood Protein to Tuberculosis Among Undernourished Subjects," by Jean Marche and

Hugues Gounelle who describe results of their own studies and review findings of other investigations.

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During the period 1942 to early 1947 a special experiment in the control of tuberculosis was conducted in Negro families living in the Upper Harlem area of New York City. The purpose of the experiment was to learn whether an improved nutritional status will affect the incidence of tuberculosis among persons at risk of attack because of exposure in the family. The families studied were divided into two groups: one in which vitamins and minerals were given as a supplement to the usual diet, and the other in which no vitamins were given served as a control.

The results of this study are reported in the article "An Experiment in the Control of Tuberculosis Among Negroes," by Jean Downes. This paper was one of a series presented at the Round Table on Nutrition in Relation to Health and Disease, which was a part of the Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund, November 16-17, 1949.

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The last issue of the *Quarterly* contained four of the ten papers presented at the Round Table on Modernization Programs in Relation to Human Resources and Population Problems, held in connection with the 1949 Annual Conference of the Milbank Memorial Fund. Three additional papers from this series are presented in this issue. All will be available eventually in the form of a volume constituting part of the proceedings of the Conference.

The paper "International Approaches to Modernization Programs," is contributed by Mr. H. W. Singer of the United Nations' Division of Economic Stability and Development. The author emphasizes that "the current United Nations program in this field received much support and stimulus from 'Point Four' developments in the United States." He also emphasizes, however, that the large and complex problem of rendering assistance to undeveloped areas is one that calls for international accord and an international organization. Mr. Singer describes

the present status of the expanded cooperative program of technical assistance developed by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. He urges the importance of helping undeveloped countries with their problems of world trade.

Japan's experience in modernization is worthy of special study, since she has become by far the most industrialized country of the Orient. In his paper, "Foreign Capital in Economic Development: A Case-Study of Japan," Dr. Edwin P. Reubens of Cornell University describes the manner in which Japan was able to develop *without* substantial foreign-capital assistance. Although some of Japan's aims and methods in modernization are "unpalatable," Dr. Reubens believes that the experience of this country affords implications for "Point Four" and other current programs of modernization. "There is much to be learned—to adapt and to avoid—in the Japanese methods of development and, in particular, the Japanese deployment of foreign capital."

Japan is also worthy of special attention when considering the demographic implications of modernization. In the paper, "Future Adjustment of Population to Resources in Japan," Dr. Warren S. Thompson, Director of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, discusses Japan's prospects for increasing production and foreign trade, her chances for finding emigration outlets, and the outlook regarding her birth rate. After weighing the several probabilities as he sees them, Dr. Thompson finds himself "very apprehensive regarding Japan's future."