

variability in extent and course from age group to age group and in time and type of onset, and, too, in the lack of any consistent acceleration in the rate of decline, suggested paper changes rather than real declines.”

Again, the author emphasizes the point that the claims with respect to present-day capacity to “control” cancer mortality are too broad.

JEAN DOWNES



THE NUTRITIONAL IMPROVEMENT OF LIFE¹

THE first half of the 20th century has been marked by tremendous increase in research in all of the biological sciences and has opened new horizons for the improvement of life. The science of nutrition, although in its infancy at the beginning of the century, has grown to sturdy adulthood during this period.

Dr. Sherman’s book, *THE NUTRITIONAL IMPROVEMENT OF LIFE* chronicles this growth and outlines the successive steps by which we have arrived at the “concept of the potentialities of the science of nutrition to improve the hitherto accepted norms of human life history.”

Probably no one is better fitted to chronicle this development than Dr. Sherman, whose fifty years in nutrition research have contributed to many of the achievements he records. In his lifetime he has seen the science of nutrition develop “through the stages of opinion into the realm of established fact and principles.”

The book is an exposition of Dr. Sherman’s credo that “nutrition is everyone’s adventure” and that the human implications of improved nutrition include higher health throughout life, and an extension of “life with those extra years added to the prime of life.”

The book is of value to every student of nutrition because of

¹ Sherman, Henry C.: *THE NUTRITIONAL IMPROVEMENT OF LIFE*. Columbia University Press, New York, 1950, 270 pp.

the concise, historical summary and the exposition of the possibilities of future development.

A valuable selected bibliography is appended.

NORMAN JOLLIFFE, M.D.

• • •

PUBLIC HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY IN THE FAR EAST¹

THE reviewer finds it an unusually congenial task to comment on this report. Seldom has he found himself in such complete accord with what he regards as the more significant views expressed by a writer (writers) in a field with which he is familiar. In addition, he considers an understanding of the views set forth here as of first importance not only to the welfare of the more than half of mankind that still lives in the pre-industrial era but to the peace of the world and the welfare of all mankind. It is a pleasure, then, to try to present a few of the leading ideas in this report to the reader who may not have time to read the entire report. But since the report is well organized, and drastically pruned and with only a few exceptions, chiefly to be found in the chapter on Japan, is written in plain straightforward English it is to be hoped that most readers will drop this review and secure the report itself. It is so full of meat that the reviewer is unable to do it justice.

“The survey (on which this report was based) was made primarily in the interests of The Rockefeller Foundation and the full report submitted to the Foundation included recommendations for its consideration in connection with the policy and program of that organization.” (P. 2) It was intended to serve administrative purposes rather than to lead to a publication of findings for the general reader. However, with the elimination of matters of interest only to the trustees and officers of the Foundation the remainder has been made available to the public. The Foundation is certainly to be congratulated on this decision.

¹ Balfour, Marshall C., Roger F. Evans, Frank W. Notestein and Irene B. Taeuber: PUBLIC HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY IN THE FAR EAST. New York, The Rockefeller Foundation, 1950.