



IN THIS ISSUE

HEALTH workers in the United States are interested in the organization and problems of European health services. During the summer of 1950, a party of fourteen American professional people undertook a brief but intensive study of health-service organization in England, Sweden, Switzerland, and France.

Dr. Milton I. Roemer, who was a member of the study group, has summarized his observations in the article "Health Service Organization in Western Europe." To make the account significant for the American reader, he has drawn comparisons with American organizational counterparts and concludes with a discussion of broad questions on the quality of medical care in Europe.

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The paper "Food Habits of Native Born and Reared School Children in Two Regions," by Clara A. Storvick, Bernice Schaad, Ruth E. Coffey, and Mary B. Deardorff, is a report of one phase of an investigation made during 1948 of the nutritional status of population groups in two areas of Oregon.

The records of the food intake of boys and girls 14-16 years of age were evaluated for each of eight nutrients: calcium, iron, protein, vitamin A value, ascorbic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin. The levels of intake were classified as adequate, borderline, or inadequate when compared to the National Research Council recommended dietary allowance. Over 60 per cent of the children had dietaries which were adequate in all of the nutrients except iron and ascorbic acid. Less than 10 per cent had diets which were classified as inadequate in protein, vitamin A value, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin.

This report should be of interest to persons working in the field of nutrition.



Surveys of morbidity have shown that about 40 per cent of all illness is due to acute respiratory diseases. Among employed persons illnesses of this type accounted for 42 per cent of the days lost from work because of disease. Because of their importance, careful research is being done in the form of experiments in the control of these illnesses.

It has been presumed that respiratory illness may be an air-borne infection. As a result ultra-violet irradiation as a means of air sterilization has been experimented with in various types of environment.

The article "Control of Acute Respiratory Illness by Ultra-Violet Lights," by Jean Downes, presents the results of the use of ultra-violet lights in the schools of one community in Westchester County compared with a control community where no lights were used. It was found that the use of ultra-violet lights did not modify the level of incidence or the epidemiological pattern of acute respiratory illness in one community as compared with the other.



The trend toward planned parenthood is sometimes interpreted as part of a supposed wider trend toward planning in general. It is argued that this has come through increasing urbanization and education of the population. Heretofore, however, data have not been available to indicate whether or not couples who plan size of family tend also to be those who plan other aspects of their family life. Some data on this question are presented in this issue as the twelfth in a series of reports on "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility." This report, by Ronald Freedman and P. K. Whelpton, is entitled "The Relationship of General Planning to Fertility Planning and Fertility Rates."