

## IN THIS ISSUE

KNOWLEDGE of specific deficiencies in the diets of population groups in various regions of the United States make it possible to direct nutrition programs to the correction of such deficiencies. The nature of dietary inadequacies has been determined both by food-habit studies and by surveys of blood levels for samples of populations. The report on "Biochemical Tests on the Blood of Native-Born and Reared Children in Two Regions" by Clara A. Storvick, Milicent L. Hathaway, and Ruth M. Nitchals is Part II of a survey on "Nutritional Status of Selected Population Groups in Oregon." For high school students in four counties, blood values were determined for vitamin A and carotene, for ascorbic acid, plasma protein, hemoglobin, and hematocrit. The values for serum vitamin A and for hemoglobin and hematocrit differed significantly for children in the four counties. The majority of the children had "good" or "excellent" blood levels for all constituents except carotene.

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The April, 1943 issue of the *Quarterly* contained an article "Are More Males Born in Wartime?" in which Dr. Constantine Panunzio reviewed the available literature on that question. In this issue, Dr. C. A. McMahan presents a paper "An Empirical Test of Three Hypotheses Concerning the Human Sex Ratio at Birth in the United States, 1915-1948." The three hypotheses subjected to test with national birth statistics are concerned with sex ratios at birth in relation to war, age of mother, and order of birth. The analyses are made for all births and for white and colored separately.

The spread of insurance plans providing for loss of earnings during periods of disability presents a need for statistics on disabling illness among employed persons. Detailed information on the duration of disability is required to give rates of disability within periods of time corresponding to those within limits of waiting and benefit periods common to disability benefits plans.

Data collected in a special morbidity study made in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore provide the required type of information for an employed group. The data are presented in the article "Duration of Disabling Acute Illness Among Employed Males and Females—Eastern Health District of Baltimore, 1938–1943" by Elizabeth H. Jackson.

Two conclusions are suggested relative to the effect of adoption of waiting and benefit periods on the rate of disabling days to be expected under insurance plans providing coverage for acute disabling illness among employed persons. First, imposition of a short waiting period, such as three, seven, or ten days, can be expected to result in a sharp decline in the rate. Second, limitation of the benefit period is likely to have little effect on the rate if the benefit period is more than three months in length.

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In recent years contraceptive services have been increasingly incorporated into maternal health programs of state and county health departments under the assumption that too-frequent childbirth may be detrimental to the health of mothers and children. Although much has been written about the effect of excess fertility on health, little is known about the extent to which health of wife, husband, and children underlie motivations of married couples regarding fertility planning and size of planned families. In this issue, Lee F. Herrera and Clyde V. Kiser present an article "Health of Wife, Husband, and Children in Relation to Fertility Planning and Fertility." This is the thirteenth of a series of articles based upon the Indianapolis Study and bearing the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."