

Positive incentives reiterated in this book, are considerations of prestige and esteem, the opportunity to specialize, the seeking of adventure and change, and even patriotism.

The study in the Mexican factory town suggests that low wages and low productivity are not necessary features of the beginnings of industrialization in underdeveloped areas. Higher wages coupled with an interest in supplying the workers with good living conditions and allowing the workers to participate in the industrial undertaking can bring higher productivity.

Perhaps the greatest contribution Dr. Moore makes in this book is his description of the complexities of the problem of industrialization in agrarian areas. No one factor is a necessary precondition for industrialization. This analysis emphasizes the necessity for a better understanding of the interrelation between economic, social and demographic problems in underdeveloped areas. It points up the need for comprehensive and balanced rather than partial and one-sided efforts in programs of modernization.

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THE BURDEN OF DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES¹

IN *THE BURDEN OF DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES*, Cohn and Lingg describe changes in mortality from various diseases in the past half century and the consequent shift in the relative importance of different specific diseases that affect the public health. The general thesis of the book is that total crude death rates have little meaning and can be interpreted only if the ages at which death occurs and the kinds of diseases that cause these deaths are considered. From this type of information, the central, practical problem of how various ailments affect the community is disclosed and "important opportunities for investigation are certain to emerge."

The basic data on mortality in the United States are shown in charts which comprise about one-third of the total pages of

¹ Cohn, Alfred E. and Lingg, Claire: *THE BURDEN OF DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1950, 129 pp. (\$10.00).

this book. Few death rates are given and most of these are found in the text comments which interpret the charts. The emphasis is on trends, and the graphs depict trends in mortality by age for each sex and from leading causes of death at each age. The great decline in mortality among children and young adults associated chiefly with control of infectious and diarrheal diseases and the resultant prolongation of life and increase in proportion of the population at older ages are discussed. It is pointed out that new diseases have become the leading causes of death, and these are diseases characteristic of aging, chiefly conditions of the heart and blood vessels, cancer and diabetes. Since age-specific death rates from these causes have increased at older ages, possible explanations for these increases are explored. Gaps in present knowledge and need for research are emphasized.

The authors also have brought together data on morbidity which have been reported from the major surveys of various population groups in the past 30 years. Some data on hospitalized cases of mental illness are presented. Inadequacies of these data are stressed and the authors state "Morbidity demands more thoroughgoing attention than has ever before been given to it."

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