

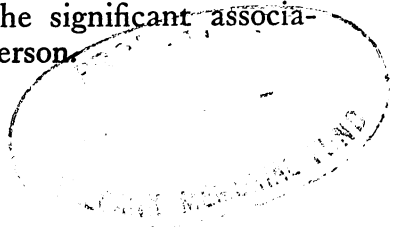
IN THIS ISSUE

MODERN concepts of causation in disease no longer view a disease as the result of a single or specific cause or disease agent. Today, a broader concept is held in which the interplay of multiple factors, involving the host, specific agents and environment, has a determining role in producing disease. This approach to the etiology of disease is reviewed by Dr. H. D. Kruse in "The Interplay of Noxious Agents, Stress, and Deprivation in the Engenderment of Disease." Dr. Kruse shows that infections and toxic agents, stress factors which elicit systemic adaptive reactions, and deficiency diseases do not have separate, independent effects but interact to influence the bodily response. The interrelationships among the many conditions and specific factors which operate to produce disease have special significance for study of the causes of chronic and degenerative diseases which currently are the most important health problems.

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Chronic diseases lead to a great deal of incapacity during middle age, the most productive years of life. The paper "Association of the Chronic Diseases in the Same Person and Their Association With Overweight," by Jean Downes, indicates that certain chronic conditions occur with greater frequency in the same person than would be expected if such conditions were distributed at random in the population.

The chronic conditions found to be significantly associated with overweight are heart disease, hypertensive vascular disease, arthritis, diabetes, and gall-bladder disease. Study of the overweight population indicated that obesity may be the predisposing factor which brings about the significant association of certain conditions in the same person.



Acute respiratory illness is an important cause of disability. The paper "Disability From Respiratory Illness" by Doris Tucher and Jean Downes presents the results of an inquiry to learn whether disabling illness is characteristic of certain people or whether such illness is distributed at random throughout the population.

The population studied consisted of persons in 497 families observed for illness over a period of three successive years. Disabling illness from respiratory disease was found to be characteristic of certain persons, both children and adults, and also such illness was found to be typical of certain families.



A paper on "Some Demographic Aspects of a Rural Area in Iran" by Mohammad B. Mashayekhi, Pauline A. Mead, and Guy S. Hayes is a by-product of a health survey of 173 villages in an agricultural area of Iran, conducted in 1950 by The Department of Rural Health Development of The Iranian Ministry of Health with the cooperation of The University of Tehran Medical Faculty and The Rockefeller Foundation. The demographic data presented relate to the age, sex, and marital-status characteristics of the population and to various measures of infant mortality, pregnancy wastage, and fertility. Despite its acknowledged limitations this study is of value in illuminating the health and demographic conditions in an area of The Middle East where official vital statistics are woefully deficient.



The fear of pregnancy and childbirth is sometimes mentioned as one of the deterrents to fertility among modern urban women. Some data bearing on this question were collected in the Indianapolis Study and the analysis of these materials is presented in the article "Fear of Pregnancy and Childbirth in Relation to Fertility-Planning Status and Fertility," by Nathalie Schacter and Clyde V. Kiser. This is the nineteenth of a series of reports appearing in the *Quarterly* under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."