

# IN THIS ISSUE

**D**URING recent years there has been an increasing awareness of the problems of prevention and control of the chronic diseases. This is true of professional workers in the field of health and also of the general public. Early in 1952 the "Joint Committee on Chronic Disease Statistics" was appointed by the Officers of the Epidemiology and Statistics Sections of the American Public Health Association. Its membership is composed of representatives from each of the two Sections.

Members of the Committee conducted a panel discussion at the last Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in October, 1952. The general topic of the discussion was "Problem Areas of Interest in Chronic Disease Studies."

The six papers which were presented by the panel members are contained in this issue of the Milbank Memorial Fund *Quarterly*. They are as follows: "Team Endeavor in the Study of Chronic Disease" by Dr. John E. Gordon; "Identification of Cases of Chronic Disease" by Dr. P. E. Sartwell; "Measurement of the Progression and Regression of Chronic Disease" by Dr. Robert Dyar; "The Selection of a Universe for the Study of Chronic Illness" by Felix E. Moore; "Resources Which Can Be Tapped for Long-Range Studies of Chronic Disease" by Herbert H. Marks; and "Long-Range Studies of Mental Hospital Patients" by Morton Kramer.

Each of these papers contains a discussion of problems in a specific area of interest in the field of chronic disease control.

• • •

The paper "On the Association Between Health and Social Problems in the Population" by Antonio Ciocco, Paul M. Den-

sen, and Daniel G. Horvitz is the first report of a study aimed at determining the degree and nature of association between ill health and problems of concern to social agencies in the community. The study is being conducted in a sample of families in the Arsenal Health District of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This paper describes the methods of the study and presents some of the preliminary findings. This investigation is of special interest because it aims to go more deeply into the study of the relationship between social and health characteristics than has been true of most investigations of morbidity.



The article by Charles F. Westoff, Lee F. Herrera, and P. K. Whelpton entitled "The Use, Effectiveness, and Acceptability of Methods of Fertility Control" is the twentieth in a series of analytical reports from the Indianapolis Study on the Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility. This particular report is not organized in terms of any specific hypothesis, but rather attempts to analyze the practice, effectiveness, and acceptability of methods of contraception as used by couples in a "normal" population. In the hope of shedding more light on the general subject of differential fertility in the United States, particular attention is devoted to analysis of the data by income groupings.