

IN THIS ISSUE

AT THE Fund's Annual Dinner Meeting on November 18th, 1954, Professor William G. Cochran spoke to the group on "Research Techniques in the Study of Human Beings." His paper is published in the following pages at the request of many who heard it. This summary of the basic approaches and problems in human research is interspersed with provocative comment and suggestions. While pointing out difficulties and pitfalls, Professor Cochran remains an optimist.

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Programs designed to improve the nutritional status of industrial workers can benefit from knowledge of factors which are related to dietary habits and nutritional status. For a group of 600 male industrial workers for whom dietary, blood, and physical findings were available, M. J. Babcock, Helen N. Church, and Lorraine O. Gates present data on the importance of several factors in the article entitled "Nutritional Status of Industrial Workers. II. Effects of education, age, income, and ethnic group." Although each of these factors has some effect on nutritional status, the authors find that "the dominant trend was for evidence of suboptimal nutrition, and also obesity, to be widely distributed throughout all education, age, income and ethnic groups."

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Since the characteristics of the population recorded in official enumerations do not include religious affiliation, data on the distribution of the population within a geographic area by broad religious grouping rarely are available. A recent survey by the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York has furnished

such data for a sample population of the City. In "The Religio-Cultural Background of New York City's Population," Neva R. Deardorff presents the figures from the 1952 survey and compares them with similar data on religious affiliation reported by the Youth Survey conducted in New York in 1935. The size of the various religio-cultural groups in the community often is a significant factor pertinent to the planning of community programs by social agencies.

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In the New York State Census of 1865 each ever-married adult female was asked the total number of children she had ever borne. The published census volume provided distributions of the native and foreign born women by number of children ever born. However, it remained for Dr. Wendell Bash to take advantage of the possibilities of studying the status of differential fertility by occupation and other criteria of socio-economic status within at least one county of New York State. He presents his results in the article "Differential Fertility in Madison County, New York, 1865." His study is important because it suggests that even at the close of the Civil War occupational differentials in fertility were well entrenched in one area of New York State.

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In 1954 the following question was included in the annual sample survey of the Detroit Area Study: "In your opinion, what would be the ideal number of children for a young couple to have, if their standard of living is about like yours?" The replies to this question are analyzed in relation to earlier data and in relation to various social characteristics of the respondents in the article "'Ideals' About Family Size in the Detroit Metropolitan Area: 1954," by Ronald Freedman, David Goldberg, and Harry Sharp of the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research of the University of Michigan. "In a country in which most married people make some use of family limitation practices," the authors point out, "the values held about 'ideal family size' are likely to be important in influencing family growth and population trends."