

author's high competence, but he can be assured that the author has taken great pains to produce a text that will be invaluable to student and professional demographer alike.

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ADAPTIVE HUMAN FERTILITY¹

THE author of this book is a biologist with a broad interest in problems of population. His background includes a period of research with the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, work with the International Division of Health of the United States Public Health Service, and director of research for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. He is currently executive director of the National Committee on Maternal Health. Within each of these jobs the author has maintained an interest in human population and in ways and means of developing rational means of population control.

Dr. Henshaw's book *ADAPTIVE HUMAN FERTILITY* begins with a description of the biological aspects of procreation. One has the feeling that the author is most completely "at home" in this area. By means of interesting charts and diagrams, he graphically describes the types of reproduction at various levels of life.

The first section of the book also contains two chapters on "inducements for fertility management." Here, the author seems to join the ranks of the pessimists in the "great debate" regarding future population in relation to resources.

In the second section of the book the author describes the various efforts at population control in primitive and more recent societies. He offers some opinions regarding future efforts at fertility control. The primitive practices include infanticide; feticide; castration; continence, chastity and celibacy; coitus interruptus, obstructus and reservatus; plant materials;

¹ Henshaw, Paul S.: *ADAPTIVE HUMAN FERTILITY*. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1955, 322 pp. \$5.50.

subincision; infibulation; and genocide. The "more recent practices" include minor surgery (for sterilization and abortions) and contraception.

With respect to "prospective trends" Henshaw devotes much attention to the possibility of controlling conception through "natural" rather than "artificial" means. "Knowledge of the mechanisms governing sexual and reproductive behavior reveals unusual opportunities. It offers not only the prospect of controlling fertility but also means of overcoming sterility and preventing disorders of the reproductive organs (prostatic complications, menstrual discomfort, spontaneous abortion, developmental abnormalities, and others)." (P. 192.) The author emphasizes that "a well-ordered sequence of events is necessary if reproduction is to be successful." (P. 197.) "We have noted the critical levels of specific agents in the body and how the presence or absence of elements in the diet, the overfunction or underfunction of certain glands, and the occurrence or nonoccurrence of nervous stimuli may cause changes in the chain of events required for reproduction. We have noted the importance of timing in this pattern of events. When we know the balances of hormonal, enzymic, and other factors, and the multiplicity of precise conditions which must be met at numerous locations, it appears little short of miraculous that reproduction should ever be successful." (P. 205.)

With the above type of stage setting the author leads up to his "plan of population management" which he calls "teleogenesis." He explains that "the plan of teleogenesis proposes that organic growth be replaced by teleogenic growth. In other words, it proposes that the human population growth process, heretofore regulated and maintained by sexual compulsion, be regulated instead by the human will and directed toward the maintenance of optimal or teleogenic populations." The author expresses confidence that the plan is workable. The only basic requirements are that completely acceptable and effective means of contraception be developed and that "there is a general desire on the part of the people everywhere to keep family size in balance with means of support." (P. 252.) The author thinks these requirements are "reasonable, all things considered." The reviewer thinks the plan highly utopian and unrealistic.

The author, of course, does not claim that his plan of "teleogenesis" is original. Over half a century ago, Lester F. Ward advanced the theory of social telesis by which he meant the direction of human intelligence and science toward the goal of social progress. In a recent statement regarding the present status of sociology, Frank H. Hankins ventured the opinion that "social telesis has been indefinitely postponed."² Like eugenics, the concept of teleogenic growth may be a worthy ideal; as a pattern for action in the near future, its prospects would seem to be poor.

CLYDE V. KISER

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THE ESTIMATION OF POPULATION CHANGES FOR NEW YORK CITY¹

THE major functions of any city government are to provide services such as police and fire protection, sanitation, and maintenance of streets. Some, including New York City, provide additional services such as public schools and higher education, hospital care to the needy and general social welfare. These functions are multiplied by the size and growth of the population (population of New York City increased 6 per cent between 1940 and 1950), and the changing ethnic characteristics of the population. Being the largest city, New York has the largest capital budget of any city in this country; its budget is larger than that of many states. Because of the size of this budget it is imperative that a more thorough knowledge of the city population be available to the local government to yield the greatest social benefit.

"The Estimation of Population Changes for New York City" was prepared by The Committee on Statistical Program for

² Presidential Advice to Younger Sociologists. *American Sociological Review*, xviii, No. 6, December, 1953, p. 600.

¹ The Estimation of Population Changes for New York City. Recommendations to the Mayor by the Committee on Statistical Program for the City of New York, with supporting report by Howard G. Brunsman. Russell Sage Foundation, New York, New York, 68 pp. \$1.00.