

IN THIS ISSUE

THE Committee on Preventive Medicine and Social Science Research has been established by the Social Science Research Council for the purpose of defining and developing areas of mutual interest to public health and social science. To stimulate discussion, the Committee has commissioned a number of memoranda reviewing research needs and opportunities in selected topical areas. Two papers in this issue are revised versions of such memoranda. One of these is "Ecologic Determinants of Population Growth," by Carl E. Taylor, M.D., John B. Wyon, M.B., and John E. Gordon, M.D. The authors of this paper describe the approaches of the various sciences and disciplines to population dynamics. They give especial emphasis to the "epidemiologic" approach and discuss its application in field research in areas such as India.

The other paper is "Some Directions for Research in Fertility Control" by Dr. J. Mayone Stycos. The author expresses the view that past efforts at introducing technical change in the underdeveloped areas have concentrated too exclusively on the peasants and laborers. He emphasizes the importance of directing more attention to the "elite." He states that "the elite are strategic in terms of setting personal examples of behavior, or of more directly disseminating new ideas." In his discussion of lower class fertility patterns, the author reviews the experience of workers in various areas of the world, including his own experience in Puerto Rico and Jamaica.



An interesting component of the baby boom since 1940 has been the great increase in the fertility rates of nonwhites in

the United States. Much of this has stemmed from a remarkable decline in proportions childless. These situations are described in this issue in Clyde V. Kiser's paper "Fertility Trends and Differentials Among Nonwhites in the United States." This paper is based largely upon data from the Censuses of 1910, 1940, and 1950 regarding children ever born by color, age, urban-rural residence, and socio-economic factors.