



## IN THIS ISSUE

MANY of the past studies of the relation of social and economic factors to health have been based on the assumption that the social and economic conditions are the independent variables and that health is the dependent variable. That this assumption has "paid off" is amply indicated by the public health movement. Nevertheless there is common recognition of the interacting character of social phenomena and a few studies have pointed out that health is a cause as well as an effect of social and economic conditions. Mr. Jacob J. Feldman of the National Opinion Research Center discusses some of the problems involved in assessing these latter types of relationship in his article "Barriers to the Use of Health Survey Data in Demographic Analysis."

• • •

In this issue, Hugh E. Brooks and Franklin J. Henry present "An Empirical Study of the Relationships of Catholic Practice and Occupational Mobility to Fertility." This is a study of the relation of selected factors to the fertility of 3,202 Catholic couples with a child in the first grade of Catholic schools in the Northeastern section of the United States. The data were collected mainly by means of questionnaires sent home to the parents by the teachers in cooperating schools. The authors were interested mainly in the effect of occupational mobility and Catholic practice on fertility. The fulfillment of Easter duty, attendance at Sunday and daily Mass, and the reception of Communion were the criteria of "Catholic practice." Al-

though the design of the study was necessarily accompanied by some bias regarding fertility, the results are interesting and of significance.



The thirty-third and last of a series of analytical reports published in the *Quarterly* under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility" appears in this issue under the title "Summary of Chief Findings and Implications for Future Studies," by Clyde V. Kiser and P. K. Whelpton. An appreciable part of the article is composed of reproductions from summary articles published previously in other journals. Reprints of this article will be used to complete the fifth and final volume of papers in the Study series.