

a glare-free paper in a modern type face of adequate size for comfortable reading.

Despite our comments above, we would like to indicate that this report is a scholarly compendium of almost 400 of the most important references in the field. We have selected examples of some of the difficulties faced by the author of this unique and useful review in order to better prepare its many readers for a critical and understanding application of its contents in the formulation of a successful program for "ensuring medical care for the aged."

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### NEWCOMERS: THE WEST INDIANS IN LONDON<sup>1</sup>

THE disturbances that took place, chiefly in Nottingham and in the Notting Hill district of London, as a result of the immigration of West Indians, shook the complacency of the English over the whole color question. It had been assumed that the English were a model of easy tolerance, ready to hold out a helping hand to in-comers of every race and creed and color. It was genuinely believed that color prejudices had been buried, when Somerset's Case and the legal decisions which followed in its wake had been absorbed into the code of conduct. In the present century the increasing communication between countries especially within what had become known and widely accepted as the Commonwealth, and the recognition given to troops from many parts of Africa who fought side by side with the British, tended to confirm this easy tolerant attitude.

When the West Indians came to England they did not settle in any special quarters, although in certain areas such as Brixton and North Kensington, there happened to be a fair concentration, but without creating what could be called a "West

<sup>1</sup>Glass, Ruth (assisted by Harold Pollins): *NEWCOMERS: THE WEST INDIANS IN LONDON*. London, Centre for Urban Studies and George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1960, 278 pp. 21s. (It will be published by the Harvard University Press under the title *LONDON'S NEWCOMERS: THE WEST INDIAN MIGRANTS*. 270 pp. \$4.)

Indian Quarter." For a time it looked as if white and colored were going to settle down without notable friction. Then something happened. Matters reached a crisis with the outbreaks of anti-color violence in the summer of 1958, in Nottingham and in the Notting Hill district of London. Ordinary folk in England were angry and bewildered, and the general reaction of both press and public amounted to a strong disapproval of race discrimination. It seemed that all decent people were agreed in condemnation of prejudice and violence, although voices were raised against the indiscriminate admission of "foreigners" to Britain, mainly on the ground of housing shortage and of interfering with the prospects of employment for the British worker.

The only comprehensive information about the West Indian immigrants is the Migrant Services Division of the West Indies Commission. The Division has no funds for welfare, but it does help greatly in guiding the newcomers to social services, and in giving advice on such subjects as housing, employment, and school facilities. Since early 1954 records have been kept of all personal interviews. Nearly all the personal callers live in the London area, and in this way nearly 5,000 cards have been accumulated relating to the London position. During the past two years Ruth Glass, with the assistance of Harold Pollins, has made a careful factual analysis of this information, by the extraction of a random sample (two-ninths) of the London Group. This consisted of 1,070 persons—782 men and 288 women—and the sample may be regarded as representative of the immigrants as a whole. The study of the sample deals with a wide variety of subjects, including distribution, previous and present employment, and housing difficulties. The last creates and perpetuates the most serious problem, and it is on housing rather than industry that Mrs. Glass concentrates attention:

As the zones of transition become more dense, their housing conditions deteriorate, their rents go up, and thus density increases even more. Most West Indians live in poor lodgings and pay high rents—both in relation to the kind of accommodation which they have, and also in relation to their incomes. Most of them can afford such rents only when they crowd together. The typical situation is that a family, or several single migrants, share one room—often a small room—in which they

sleep, cook and eat, and spend their free time when they cannot go outdoors. The 'furniture' of the furnished room is frequently very meagre. Sanitary and washing facilities are usually shared with other tenants. It would be hard for anyone to find a *modus vivendi* in such cramped lodgings; it is hard especially for people from a milder climate, with different social habits, who have been used to being a great deal in the open air. (p. 54)

Discriminatory advertisements for housing accommodation are common enough, but not so frequent as the closed door. Schools do not offer the same difficulty, for the teachers are loyal to the public opinion of the country, which firmly rejects discrimination. Similar conditions apply, although with less force, to industry and especially to what might be called the public industries such as Transport. On the other hand there is a certain amount of occupational downgrading, due partly to the different conception of skilled work in the sending and the receiving countries, and partly on account of the awkward circumstances of promotion. There have been from time to time industrial disputes, mainly in relation to the quota of colored employees when the work situation was difficult; but on the whole the position has been manageable.

So we return to the principal difficulties, in and around the homes; and the question of attitudes has been the subject of a brilliant analysis by Mrs. Glass. This close study offers little room for complacency, because it becomes clear that the attitude of the British people is at best ambivalent: that is, a benevolent tolerance in theory, corresponding to the law and official opinion, and a cold want of understanding in the individual case. The violence which smouldered for a long time and broke out sporadically in Nottingham and Notting Dale was not, as was said hopefully at the time, the mere outburst of villainy on part of a few teddy boys and other anti-social elements. It is only too clear that the root causes penetrated more deeply than had been admitted. One of the goads to violence, to which too little attention has been given, turned out on examination to be the propaganda and action of certain illiberal groups, including the Racist groups of one kind and another—the extreme right wing and anti-colored organizations.

The penetrating study which has been so briefly outlined above ought to be widely read, because it is a fine example of the scientific approach to social issues, and also because it points clearly to the dangers of our prevalent "benevolent prejudice" towards the stranger in our land. The report gives no cause for complacency, but rather demands a closer examination of our own attitudes in Britain. The comments in the press which followed the rioting were not enough, although they helped to create a better climate of opinion; there is a sense of urgency in the summing-up made by Mrs. Glass:

All the factors which contributed to the disturbances in Notting Dale still exist; and some have become more disturbing since. There has been neither physical nor ideological slum clearance: the housing shortage is as acute as before; fascist propaganda is more active; . . . evidence of senseless brutality is still seen each week . . .

But this is not the main risk. Far more important still is the fact that, while the status of the coloured minority is an uneasy one, especially in that part of London, there are signs of further deterioration. Although the problems of the migrants are still manageable, they are cumulative." (p. 226)

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## HISTORY OF FAMILY LIMITATION IN FRANCE<sup>1</sup>

THIS book, produced by a team of scholars associated with the *Institut national d'études démographiques* in Paris, is the first comprehensive investigation of the early history of family limitation in France. With the sole exception of the monumental *MEDICAL HISTORY OF CONTRACEPTION* by the late Norman E. Himes, published in 1936, it is the only such study ever made in any language. The period covered begins with

<sup>1</sup> Bergues, Hélène; Ariès, Philippe; Hélin, Étienne; Henry, Louis; Riquet, Michel; Sauvy, Alfred; and Sutter, Jean. *La prévention des naissances dans la famille: ses origines dans les temps modernes*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1960. pp. 400, 12 NF.