

IN THIS ISSUE

POLITICAL events on the international front have focused interest on many places and peoples little known to the outside world. Among these has been Nepal, a country in the Himalayas between India and Tibet which was visited by the American Himalayan Expedition in 1959. While serving as physician for the expedition, Dr. Frederick L. Dunn made health examinations on inhabitants of several villages and collected data on disease prevalence and health services available in the areas visited. In the article "Medical-Geographical Observations in Central Nepal," Dr. Dunn reports his findings on health problems and also describes life in a Bhotian village at an altitude over 12,000 feet.

• • •

A report on "Hospital Care in Peru," published in this issue of the *Quarterly*, was prepared by Joseph A. Cavanaugh while serving as director of the National Biostatistics Program of the Interamerican Cooperative Public Health Program. As an illustration of the application of fact finding techniques to an evaluation of the facilities for health care and of needs for additional services, this study in Peru has significance for other developing countries. Dr. Cavanaugh studied general aspects of the hospital facilities, such as geographic location, type (public or private, general or special) and the number of beds, percentage of occupancy and amount of professional service in different types of hospitals. Data on the numbers of discharged patients, classified by sex, age and cause of hospitalization provided information on the health problems for which the available hospital care was being utilized. Findings in the study

gave a factual basis for recommending ways to improve and to increase available hospital care and also indicated the need for more preventive health service.

• • •

Eugene Michael Kulischer was a refugee from Communist Russia to Germany, from Hitler's Germany to Denmark and thence to France, and from Petain's France to the United States. During the dozen or so years before his death in this country in 1956, he became well known in demographic circles for his writings on refugee migration, displaced persons and population transfers. Dr. A. J. Jaffe has made a careful study of Kulischer's writings and has concluded that, without pretending to do so, Kulischer made an appreciable contribution to population theory. His piece, appearing in this issue, is "Notes on the Population Theory of Eugene M. Kulischer".

• • •

This issue contains the first of a short series of articles based upon a survey of fertility and fertility control among Jewish maternity cases in Israel from August, 1959 through March, 1960. The first article is "Contraception and Induced Abortions Among Jewish Maternity Cases in Israel" by R. Bachi and J. Matras of Hebrew University, Jerusalem. The use of maternity cases introduces certain biases for studies of contraception and abortion, but despite these limitations this study points up interesting variations in fertility behavior in Israel according to continent of birth, place of residence and type of settlement, socio-economic characteristics and religious observance.