

NEWS DIGEST

SEX differences in physical impairments of adult life is the subject of a paper by Rollo H. Britten which appears in the May, 1931, issue of the *American Journal of Hygiene*. This paper is the seventh in the series of studies in the diseases of adult life from the Milbank Memorial Fund Division of Research.

Mr. Britten's study uses the records of periodic health examinations given to 112,618 insurance policy holders by the Life Extension Institute. The findings are minimal rather than exaggerated for two principal reasons: (1) the persons examined had already been selected as in fairly good health when they took out their policies, and (2) the examinations were made by 9,000 physicians of average training and skill. In general, the results of a comparison of impairments found among males and females showed that—

1. The rates of physical impairments are, on the average, higher for women than for men,

in spite of the fact that the reverse is true of mortality data.

2. The most marked excess among women is for thyroid conditions, visceroptosis, edema, adenitis, varicose veins, tenderness in region of gallbladder and appendix, heart conditions, tuberculosis, bronchitis and emphysema, symptoms of nervous state, and hemorrhoids.

3. For a number of conditions, the rates for men are higher than those for women, particularly for casts in urine, deflected septum, and arterial thickening.

4. The age prevalence of physical impairments is generally quite identical for the two sexes.

5. Housewives (largely a married group) show characteristic differences in comparison with the group gainfully occupied (largely unmarried), particularly with respect to teeth and pharyngeal conditions.

A limited number of copies of the study are available for distribution in reprint form.

DIFFERENTIAL age at marriage according to social class, by Frank W. Notestein of the Research Division, Milbank Memorial Fund, is the report of a study based on records obtained from the 1910 census schedules concerning age, duration of marriage, and occupation of husband, for urban and rural women of native white parentage. The women are grouped into six urban and three rural classes on the basis of the husband's occupation. Because of certain limitations of the data the study is confined to 17,876 women who married between 1900 and 1905. Analysis of the age-at-marriage distributions for these women leads to the following conclusions: (1) The women of the urban population married later than those of the rural, but the women of the three "lowest" urban classes married earlier than those of the "highest" rural class. (2) For both the urban and rural classes age at marriage increases with "rising" social status, and the increase is largest between the classes differing most in social status. (3) The age at marriage for certain classes is lower than that of the most nearly comparable English classes. (4) The direct relation of age at marriage and social

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status accounts in part for the inverse relation between the fertility and social status of the classes.

The paper appears in the May, 1931, issue of the *American Journal of Sociology*.



TUBERCULOSIS in adolescents is the subject of a study by Drs. Margaret Witter Barnard, J. Burns Amberson, Jr., and Marion Franklin Lowe, which was published in the May, 1931, issue of the *American Review of Tuberculosis*.

An intensive examination of one thousand 13 and 14 year old school children in the Bellevue-Yorkville district of New York City was made (1) to determine an effective method (feasible for a City Department of Health) of finding cases of tuberculosis in children which are generally assumed to be an important source of tuberculosis in young adults, and (2) to find out the kind and amount of tuberculous infection in a cross-section of child population.

General group characteristics, general health conditions, and weight were found to be negative factors for case finding among children. The factor of history of household contact

with tuberculosis requires such intensive inquiry that its value is limited except as a function of an organized tuberculosis service. The use of the X-ray alone for all children for screening purposes was considered impracticable because of its limited information and expensiveness. The tuberculin test was found to be a relatively easy and inexpensive method of separating the children into groups: (1) those who have some tuberculous infection needing further study and (2) those who have no infection, or in whom infection is so completely healed that allergy is lost.

Five hundred and twenty of the thousand children reacted to the first injection of tuberculin (0.1 mgm.) and an additional 153 reacted to the second dose (1.0 mgm.) making a total of 673 positive reactors or 67.3 per cent of the total children tested. Two hundred and eighty of the positive and eleven of the negative reactors were considered as cases needing supervision. These cases according to the classification used by the National Tuberculosis Association were grouped as follows: (1) observation, 205 cases; (2) manifest disease, 15 cases; and (3) apparently healed, 71 cases. One

hundred and eighty-four of these cases were found to have tuberculous pulmonary lesions demonstrable by X-ray.

To study thoroughly the incidence of tuberculous infection and disease in a group, the authors' conclusion was that the procedure must include the following elements: (1) A test of the entire group by tuberculin—to screen out those with significant tuberculous infection. (2) X-ray of the positive reactors—to discover lesions demonstrable in the pulmonary-tracheo-bronchial area. (3) A complete pediatrics examination of the positive reactors—to evaluate general health conditions as contributing factors. (4) A final decision as to further care of the positive reactors, made after a careful study of tuberculosis findings, general health condition, and amount of exposure to the disease.



THE insight with which the relationship between private medical practice and the public health services in various European countries is set forth by Sir Arthur Newsholme in the first volume of his international public health studies received high commendation by English medi-

cal journals following publication of the British edition of the book by George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London. The volume, published recently in this country by the Williams and Wilkins Company of Baltimore, is the first of a series of four bearing the title "International Studies on the Relation Between the Private and Official Practice of Medicine with Special Reference to the Prevention of Disease." The present work is concerned with public health measures, sickness insurance, hospitalization, and other allied subjects as observed in The Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The author's investigation was undertaken at the request of the trustees of the Milbank Memorial Fund in order that they might be guided in their future policy in aiding public health movements. A special aim of the investigation was to enable the Fund to avoid possibility of jeopardizing the interests of private practitioners.

"The result of the investigation," says the *Medical Officer*, "is a book of extraordinary value and interest. Sir Arthur Newsholme has given to each chapter an individuality which results from the different social

viewpoints and the methods of administration in the various countries he visited."

"No one is better qualified to conduct such an investigation," the *Spectator* declares. "Sir Arthur Newsholme has had a long experience in the problems of the treatment and prevention of disease, has a marked facility for seizing on essentials, and is the possessor of a simple, effective style of writing. . . . The author's researches are concerned with many problems of social and individual medicines. He succeeds in throwing light on all of them."

Paying a tribute to Sir Arthur for "the courage and the youthful enthusiasm" with which he has undertaken his "formidable task," the *British Medical Journal* continues: "The great benefit of possessing in convenient form data which show how any given country has reached its present position or obtained its special advantages on the medical side is obvious. Sir Arthur Newsholme, in this readable and instructive volume has done this for each country reviewed. Those who are visiting the countries with which this book deals would do well to slip it in beside their guide-books."

Another medical journal, *The Hospital*, finds the book "a

mine of information on the subject" in that it shows the extent to which problems in the field of public health are common to different countries. "The trustees of the Milbank Memorial Fund," it declares, "were fortunate in securing the services of Sir Arthur Newsholme, with his long experience so peculiarly suited to make a study of this kind, to marshal facts with understanding and conciseness."

"This book is a public service," says *General Practice*. "A knowledge of the problems and achievements of other countries is essential in any reasoned approach to our own problems. Extension of medical insurance and great changes in the voluntary and municipal hospitals are inevitable; and equally inevitable are drastic effects on private practice and the status of the private practitioner. The completed studies will represent what is easily the most comprehensive survey of the modern practice of medicine. A warm welcome awaits the three further volumes promised."

The second volume of the series, which was first issued in England in May and has recently been published in the United States, deals with Belgium, France, Italy, Yugoslavia,

Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. It, too, sells at sixteen shillings or \$4.00 per copy. In most respects it treats of the same aspects of public health administration in relation to the private practitioner as did its predecessor.

Special mention may be made of the author's description of recent developments in France and Italy, which are of exceptional interest for the bearing they have on the spread of new public health ideas throughout Europe. Under the Fascist regime in Italy, for example, a new system of public health administration has been evolved which is being watched with interest by other countries. The Fascist revolution, Sir Arthur points out, has been followed by the organization of doctors in a new combination of Corporate Syndicates for the carrying out of important duties. These duties comprise the giving of assistance and counsel in matters of hygiene, with a view to the improved health and greater productivity of the workers of the realm. The medical syndicates are also intended to promote scientific study and to protect the conditions of professional work.

It is the definite judgment of those whom Sir Arthur News-

holme consulted in Italy that the new system of medical organization has had a powerfully beneficial influence on its economic position, and has aided greatly in drawing the attention of the State authorities to the desires of the profession.

"The development and working of this elaborate machinery for control of the medical profession," he says, "will be watched with interest. It is characteristic of a highly developed and centralized organization in which individual action must bend completely to the will of the community as expressed in the syndicate. If future difficulties arise they will emerge especially in the relationship between the medical and the workers' syndicates."

The discussion of the medico-political problems of France is also of special interest at this time, notably the new system of national sickness insurance. The French law provides for insurance against sickness, maternity, invalidity, old age, death, and unemployment. Though it was passed by the Chamber of Deputies in April, 1928, a delay of one year was arranged for the necessary executive arrangements, an interval which has already passed, Sir Arthur declares,

without much further progress being made. The resources of French finance are heavily involved in the measure, which provides insurance for every employed person, male or female, with a total annual salary not exceeding 18,000 francs. This limit is not fixed, since an additional 2,000 francs is allowed for each dependent child.

The third volume of the International Studies, which will be published in the early fall, will have to do with Great Britain and Ireland. In a fourth and independent book, to appear later, Dr. Newsholme will summarize the subject of public health in its relation to private practice, and will present his conclusions concerning fundamental health problems and suggestions for meeting them.



THE publication last May of Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow's evaluation of the Cattaraugus County Health Demonstration under the title "Health on the Farm and in the Village," evoked widespread editorial and news comment in the daily press throughout the country. Dr. Winslow's objective and critical study of the results of the eight years' demonstration has evi-

dently been regarded as impressive proof of the significance which the Cattaraugus demonstration holds for other rural sections.

The *New York Times* editorial, after giving an extensive outline of the purposes and the reasons which impelled the Milbank Memorial Fund to give material support to Cattaraugus County in carrying out the program, continues: "The general opinion that there is not so great need of modern systematic health service in the country as in the cities is mistaken. 'The farm dweller has today just as much illness as the city dweller, and perhaps more.' He needs health protection, but it costs more, and as small local units cannot afford to develop an adequate medical service, it becomes necessary to have a county organization, or to unite local units into larger ones in some other way. Even so, without state aid there is no way out. . . . The Fund gave material support and counsel, but the initiative was taken by the official representatives of the County. It was 'a demonstration by and not on the people.' 'Cattaraugus' may come to be a name for an adequate health service."

The *New York Herald-Tri-*

bune's editorial stresses the importance of favorable action on the bill presented in Albany to make county health organizations mandatory. "Successful examples of the county health unit should have persuasive value with members of the Legislature who have not made up their minds on the question of supplanting town and village units by the larger sized organization. Directly pertinent is the report of Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, professor of public health at the Yale School of Medicine, on the eight years' experience of rural health work in Cattaraugus County, which has had generous support from the Milbank Memorial Fund. . . .

"It may be granted that the Cattaraugus demonstration has been conducted with exceptional zeal and thoroughness, but it is a model which every rural county can emulate with the State's assistance under the present permissive law. The legislative leaders were unable last winter to press to passage the bill to organize county health units throughout the State, although that development was the most important feature of the program recommended by the special state health commission. The merits of the propos-

al warrant prompt and favorable consideration at the next session."

A similar hope that this measure will be passed is expressed in the *New York Evening Post's* editorial, which after commenting at length on the Cattaraugus County demonstration, declares: "The next Legislature at Albany should initiate action looking to the setting up of a department of health in every county in this State."

The *Springfield Republican's* comment runs in part as follows: "The question of recruiting the ranks of country doctors and improving the health conditions of rural communities is so much discussed that general interest attaches to a report of an eight years' experimental survey in Cattaraugus County, New York. The conclusions reached from the survey that rural sections generally enjoy less health protection than the cities accord with the view that has come to be held by many well-informed persons. . . . Facts thus set forth go to support the belief that much can be accomplished in promoting higher standards of rural health protection through an intelligent organizing of community forces. If, as Dr. Winslow says, the direct saving of

lives by this experimental campaign represents an economic saving amounting to double the cost of the survey, there is a particular incentive for other counties to try to apply the policies deduced."

The *Worcester, Evening Gazette*, pointing out the growing need for hospital facilities in cities, compares the Cattaraugus County demonstration with the efforts in health promotion being made everywhere in progressive urban centers and concludes: "The report of the results indicates that the Cattaraugus experiment has been well worth while."

The need for better rural health facilities is likewise stressed by the *Albany Times-Union*, which says in part: "The health of rural communities has received far less attention than the health of urban communities. Undoubtedly this has an important bearing on statistics recently published by the American Child Health Association showing that city children, in spite of the disadvantages of city life, have better health records than country children."

The *Boston Herald*, commenting editorially on the demonstration, quotes Dr. Winslow as declaring that the average farm

and small-town dweller depend for protection and care on public health machinery which is twenty-five years behind the times, and concludes: "For many years the average student of conditions has suspected this to be true. This Milbank report furnishes proof of it."

The publication of Dr. Winslow's report attracted wide attention in cities in up-state New York which had followed with interest the progress of the demonstration. Extended résumés of the health program appeared in the Buffalo, Olean, and Syracuse newspapers, as well as editorial comment on its significance. Newspapers in the Middle West and other sections far afield also devoted considerable space to a discussion of Dr. Winslow's chief conclusions concerning rural health.



JOHN ADAMS KINGSBURY, secretary of the Milbank Memorial Fund, received on June 1, from Syracuse University, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, in recognition of his services during the past twenty-five years in the cause of education, public health, social welfare, and in the general betterment of humanity.

In awarding the degree, Chancellor Charles W. Flint paid him the following tribute: "John Adams Kingsbury, student of the University of Washington, Bachelor of Science, also graduate student of Columbia University, school principal and superintendent for twenty-four years, brilliant leader of forces for social welfare, as an officer of the New York State Charities Aid Association, as organizer of the first Conference of Mayors of New York State, as general director of the New York Association for the Improving the Condition of the Poor, as Commissioner of Public Charities of New York City; then abroad as assistant general director of relief American Red Cross, and as director of the department of citizenship of the Educational Corps of the American Expeditionary Forces; and of late years as secretary of the Milbank Memorial Fund; for your devoted and skilled service to humanity at home and abroad, for your present activity as director and counsellor of many organizations devoted to public charity, already decorated by foreign governments, Syracuse University is happy to admit you to the degree of Doctor of Laws and invest you with all the rights and privi-

leges appertaining to that degree.”



THE need for better trained personnel is strongly emphasized by all groups interested in the improvement of public health administration and practice. The role of the public health nurse is one of growing importance in both official and unofficial health organizations, and to aid in meeting the need for qualified personnel the Milbank Memorial Fund has for some time been interested in the better training and education of this group. Three public health nursing education projects are at present assisted by the Fund.

Rural Nursing Scholarships. The stimulation and development of rural health work has brought a special need for public health nurses who are adequately prepared to meet rural situations. Since 1926, the Milbank Memorial Fund has offered scholarships for rural field experience for students from the nursing education department in Teachers College, Columbia University. The scholarship allowance is sufficient to provide transportation and living expenses for two months in Cattauga County, where the health

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department is organized on a county unit plan, sponsors a generalized nursing program, and is able to plan and supervise the work so that students may have actual experience in addition to observation.

Scholarships have been granted to four students for the summer of 1931, which will make the group of nurses having this field experience total seventeen, since 1926. With one exception the thirteen nurses who have completed the course are now engaged in one of the branches of public health nursing. Five are doing rural work, four in this country and one in China; one is a supervisor and two are staff nurses in urban visiting nurse associations; one is doing school nursing; one is educational director of a hospital out-patient department; one is assistant director of the nursing service of the American Red Cross; and one is assistant professor of a university public health nursing course.

The Teaching Service of East Harlem Nursing and Health Service. The teaching program of the East Harlem Nursing and Health Service was initiated in April, 1928, through a special grant from the Milbank Memorial Fund, to meet the need for

field experience for advanced public health nursing students. With a teaching staff of university caliber responsible for maintaining high standards and techniques, the teaching service utilizes, and in fact, is made possible by the well-developed generalized nursing and health services of the community program.

The demand for this educational service is demonstrated by the increasing registration, and the total enrollment in the past 37 months of 391 students. The 310 American students came from 36 states and the 81 foreign students from 30 countries. Forty-eight per cent of the students have been from the department of nursing education in Teachers College, Columbia University. With this affiliation, the field work supplements and illustrates the classroom theory and college credits are given for the course. Another 30 per cent of the total enrollment, has been comprised of nurses from other health organizations in New York and other cities desirous of advanced experience in public health nursing practice. A third group, 22 per cent, mostly from foreign countries, registered through an affiliation with Rockefeller Foundation.

In addition there is a group

classified as "visitors," who have less than the forty hours, designated as a unit of college work. In the first four months of 1931 there were 113 visitors who attended group classes as well as individual conferences, with an average time per visitor of between three and four hours.

This brief summary about the students who have had these opportunities, will be supplemented by a complete description of the work in a report now in preparation in the offices of the East Harlem Nursing and Health Service.

Department of Public Health Nursing, Syracuse University. The establishment in 1930 of a department of Public Health Nursing in the College of Medicine, Syracuse University, was made possible through a grant by the Milbank Memorial Fund. Actual teaching began in the second semester of the current academic year with a registration of ten part-time students.

The two programs of study offered for properly qualified graduate nurses are described in a special bulletin issued by the department; one leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in Public Health Nursing; one leading to the certificate in Public Health Nursing.

In addition to the theoretical courses, supervised field experience is offered through the cooperation of the City Health Department Bureau of Nursing, the Visiting Nurse Association, and the School Health Service of the Board of Education. This greatly increases the value of the course, by providing an opportunity for the application of theory to the practical situation.

For those who are eligible there are valuable electives from the wide range of courses offered in the College of Home Economics, Teachers College, and the College of Liberal Arts.



THE first number of "The Health Examiner," the official publication of the Greater New York Committee on Health Examination, appeared on April first. It outlines in detail the five-year program of activities by the five county medical societies in the metropolitan district to spread the gospel of health conservation through periodic examinations. Physicians, medical institutions, schools, hospitals, the press, radio, motion pictures, the lecture platform, and industrial and public service organizations will have a part in the campaign.

It is the purpose of "The Health Examiner" to keep the medical profession informed of the progress of the campaign and supplied with information and data of value on the technique and practice of health examinations.

The five-year program was formally launched on April twenty-seventh at a meeting held at the Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd Street, which was attended by physicians of the five boroughs. The speakers included Dr. Charles Gordon Heyd, president of the New York County Medical Society, who presided; Dr. A. J. Rongy, chairman of the Greater New York Committee, who outlined the aims of the Committee and the promise of their fulfillment; Dr. Linsly R. Williams, director of the New York Academy of Medicine; Dr. John W. Withers, dean of the School of Education, New York University; Dr. Samuel W. Lambert, and Dean Willard C. Rappleye, of the Columbia School of Medicine. Others participating in the discussion that followed the formal addresses included Doctors Orrin S. Wightman, Luther F. Warren, George Baehr, E. George Payne, E. C. Podvin, Dennis E. McMahon, and John A. Hartwell.