

pottery of the Islamic period, beginning in 645 A.D., and tablets bearing the name of Allah in Kufic; an Islamic mosque; a tomb tower of medieval days still containing fragments of the silk, brocade, wool, and cotton garments in

which the dead were wrapped. Solid gypsum vaults of the graves are held responsible for the preservation of the fabric through more than seven centuries.

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POPULATION

Survey Changes in Quality Of America's Population

AMERICA is getting her growth. Soon—within the next sixteen years—she will have reached that state of national adulthood known to population experts as a "stationary population." Provided death rates and fertility rates remain exactly as they are at the present time, by the year 1950 young Americans will come into the world only just fast enough to replace those older ones who are dying. After that there is likely to be a period of slow decrease; but scientific prediction can not reach far into the future.

This is one of the conclusions of Dr. Frank Lorimer and Frederick Osborn in a new book, "Dynamics of Population," just published by Macmillan.

Description of a population as stationary only means that its numbers are not increasing. But the population will be far from static in other respects, for some sections or classes of the population are increasing and will continue to increase at a far greater rate than others. The "stationary population" may therefore be thought of as a brew disturbed by yeast, with some elements constantly foaming to the top and other elements gradually disappearing.

Survey Raised Questions

The investigation reported by Drs. Lorimer and Osborn was undertaken to discover what elements in America's population are increasing more rapidly and which are the ones that are in danger of being lost. They raise the question: What are the physical and mental differences between these groups? What effect will the population changes have on American life in the future?

The class of unskilled labor is increasing, the scientists found, despite the fact that America is having less and less use for untrained workers. The rural population is increasing much faster than the city population despite

the fact that America needs fewer and fewer agricultural producers. And although the United States is making a great conscious effort toward improving the social condition of her citizens and toward spreading education, these efforts are being counteracted by the blind forces governing population growth. For the number of the intelligent is not increasing nearly so rapidly as is the number of those with inferior educational background. Furthermore it is probably true, although this is less apparent, that the number of those least capable of profiting from educational opportunities is also increasing.

Mental Race Suicide?

"Present population trends are tending to create a serious economic imbalance between agriculture and industry, and perhaps between some other groups in our economic structure," the authors say. "There is an apparent very gradual but by no means negligible drift toward undermining our most precious inheritance, the capacity for high intelligence. Very certainly there is a strong force at work that runs exactly counter in its effects on social environment to our conscious educational efforts. And yet this whole set of forces, perhaps second in social importance only to the need for a more stable and equitable economic order, has remained largely neglected by social scientists."

The remedy, it is believed, lies fortunately in measures that also make for greater social good at the present. Slum clearance is one of these. Paradoxically, the less fit classes reproduce most rapidly in the crowded conditions of the slums, while the better classes have larger families when they are not crowded. Better housing with more room serves, it seems, to reduce the number of the less desirable and also to increase the numbers of the socially fit. The improvement of the conditions

of rural living is given even greater emphasis, as tending to reduce fertility in backward areas, and to attract superior families into the rural communities that will be our chief source of future population supply.

Some extension of sterilization is recommended, but it is pointed out that in view of the principles of modern genetics no far-reaching effects can be expected from preventing a few extremely handicapped individuals from reproducing. The spread of birth control is seen to be more important, so that these measures come into general use among the less intelligent as well as among the more intelligent. Economic provisions making possible early marriages and a change of attitude toward the large family are other possible steps toward preventing the loss of America's most precious heritage, intelligence.

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win Lucke, G. P. Muller, C. G. Johnston and W. L. Ruigh. Not until they had given it to nearly five hundred patients of all ages and conditions and for very many kinds of operations, did they report their results.

Its advantages are such that they think it will probably have a definite place in the field of anesthesia. Because there is very little vomiting and the patient recovers quickly after divinyl ether, the Philadelphia scientists think this new anesthetic is particularly suitable for extracting teeth and minor operations after which the patient can be up and about.

Divinyl ether does have some effect on the liver, they found, and therefore some precautions must be taken in its use. These relate to the type of patient and the length of time he must be under the anesthetic.

Careful tests of the effects of divinyl ether on the liver of dogs showed that this anesthetic does not disturb the liver to any appreciable extent, Dr. Wesley Bourne and Douglas W. Sparling of McGill University reported to the Congress of Anesthetists. It has been given to over three hundred patients at the Royal Victoria Maternity Hospital in Montreal to vanquish the pains of childbirth. From observation of these cases, Drs. Bourne and Sparling reported that the new anesthetic seems particularly suitable for this purpose. They find it not a suitable anesthetic for laboratory dogs.

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