

POPULATION

Grandchildren of the War

The echo of the present war boom in babies is expected in 1965. These children will stand an exceedingly good chance of growing to maturity.

By MARTHA G. MORROW

➤ ANOTHER boom in babies is expected in the United States about 20 years from now when the stork brings large numbers of grandchildren of the great war. Babies born around 1965, a large number of them children of our war-boom babies, will stand an exceedingly good chance of growing to maturity—far better than did their grandparents or even their parents—thanks to the great advances being made in keeping infant and childhood diseases in check.

These grandchildren of the great war, much more than their parents, may enjoy quiet streets where they can ride tricycles and trees which they can climb, since an increasing proportion of the population probably will live in smaller cities and suburban areas.

The chance of their having at least four or five brothers and sisters will be less than for their own parents, for families are becoming smaller. They will also probably grow up in smaller houses than did their parents, due largely to the decreasing size of families, lack of servants and higher cost of building. There is likewise an excellent chance that they and nearly all of their playmates will have native-born parents. Today 13 out of 14 American babies are born to native parents, and unless there is a change in our immigration laws, few parents in 1965 will be foreign-born.

More Conservative U. S.

These babies, however, may grow up in a much more conservative and less exciting United States. Twenty years from now an increasing number of the voters will be older people, so the political parties will be more under their control, probably leading to an increasing tendency to keep affairs just as they are. The average age of stockholders in corporations will also increase, probably resulting in older men on the boards of directors and a less pioneering manner of conducting business.

People will probably be more interested in culture and the arts when they become of age than the average American

is today. Youth is more concerned with forging ahead and making a place in the world; later in life there is apt to be more reflection and less action.

The average age of people in the United States has been steadily increasing. Half of the people in America in 1800 were 16 years of age or under. By 1900, the average population had increased in age and half of the people were around 23 years or under, the other half being over that age. Half of the people in 1940 were 29 years or under, and by 1965 there is a pretty good chance that the dividing line will come around 33 years of age.

Between 11 and 12 million children in the United States in 1965 will be learning to walk and talk, going to play or nursery school, being under five years of age. Those between five and 19 will number over 35,000,000. This is the estimate of two population experts, Dr. Warren S. Thompson and Dr. P. K. Whelpton of the Scripps Foundation for

Research in Population Problems at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

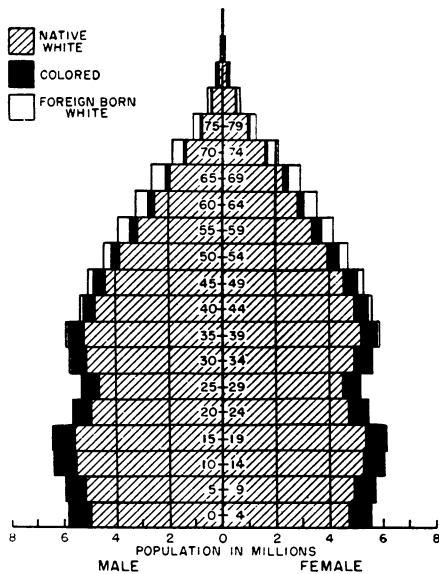
The largest proportion of the population will be between the ages of 20 and 44—there will be nearly 58,000,000 of these, a majority of them married and starting families of their own. People between the ages of 45 and 65 will number about 36,500,000, Dr. Thompson and Dr. Whelpton believe, while nearly 15,000,000 men and women will be 65 or over.

This means that about 156,000,000 people will probably be living in the United States in 1965, as contrasted with the 138,000,000 here today. But these population experts do not believe that the number of people in the United States will increase indefinitely. Their calculations show that the population is likely to reach a peak of 160,000,000 to 165,000,000 a few years before the end of this century, and then decrease slowly.

There will be a larger proportion of colored people in the United States 20 years from now than at present, about 17,500,000 being colored. There were 14,300,000 colored people in the United States at the beginning of this year and



CHILDREN OF 1965—Children of the war-boom babies of the United States, much more than their parents, will live on quiet streets. A greater proportion of the population will live in smaller cities and suburban areas 20 years from now. Photograph by Fremont Davis, Science Service staff photographer.



POPULATION CHART—An estimate of the number of males and females in the United States in 1965, their ages and whether they will be native white, colored or foreign-born white is given by Dr. Warren S. Thompson and Dr. P. K. Whelpton of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems.

unless we have immigration, the population of the United States within the next two decades will become increasingly colored, due primarily to a higher birth rate among Negroes than among white persons.

Most of the population increase is likely to go to smaller cities and suburban areas. Many of the additional men may work in big cities, but as a rule they will not live in them. The number of farmers and persons in farm families will probably decrease as more labor-saving machinery is used on farms. But farmers now work longer hours than city people. So, if working hours on the farm are cut, the farm population may increase.

The proportion of the population in manufacturing and mining has been going down and probably will continue to do so. The proportion of doctors, lawyers and white-collar workers, on the other hand, will continue to increase.

Romances will lead to marriage at a younger age in 1965. During the last half century white girls have been marrying younger and will probably continue to do so. The majority of the boys who marry will do so between the ages of 20 and 27, while the girls will be 18 to 25. Many of the girls may continue

to work until the husband is in a position to support them, but contraceptive information makes it possible to marry earlier without running as great a chance as in the past of starting the family before they are financially prepared to do so.

There will be fewer bachelors 20 years from now than there were before the war, for instance, as men will have a better selection. In the past males out-

numbered females in the United States, chiefly because there were so many men among those immigrating to America. In the future there will be an excess of females here. But only about eight or ten percent of the women will remain single, about nine out of every ten having been married by the time they are 50.

There will be a decline in the number of children born in the future, as the

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Industrially important *Engelmann spruce trees* in four national forests in Colorado are facing destruction with an unprecedented increase in the hosts of a native, rice-sized beetle, *Dendroctonus engelmanni*.

decline in birth rate continues. It will be due more, however, to fewer children per family than any great decrease in the number of women having children.

The number of children who die will be quite low. In 1915, of every 1,000 white babies born alive, in the birth registration states, 99 died before they were one year old, and of every 1,000 colored babies, 181 died.

In 1943, 37 white babies per 1,000 died; 62 colored babies per 1,000 died. Colored people will continue to die younger, Dr. Whelpton stated, but because of poorer housing and a lack of money for medical care rather than for biological differences.

The life expectation of white males in 1965 will be about 67 years, whereas white females will have a life expectation of about 70½ years. This is because women are tougher biologically than men from the time they are conceived, and infant mortality is higher among men. The risks of childbearing are less than the occupational risks of men.

The average number of years lived by colored men two decades from now, if conditions continue as we think they will until 1965, will be about 60.3 years. The life expectancy of colored women will be about 62.5 years.

The average length of life of the American people in 1942, the highest to date, was 64.8 years. This does not mean that people are setting new records for longevity, for few live to be over 100. The expectation of life has gone up and will continue to go up after the war primarily because we succeed in getting a

large number of babies to live to 60 or 70 years of age.

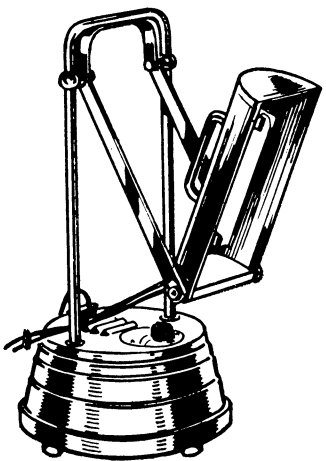
People in the future will die largely of old age. Heart failure, softening of the brain and hardening of the arteries will take large numbers of people. Research in many lines is making progress in catching diseases in time and prolonging life.

Population experts base their estimates for 1965 or any other future year by studying past trends. Excellent data are available at the U. S. Bureau of the Census, division of vital statistics, since 1933 as births and deaths throughout the whole United States have been reported since that time. Some idea of what happened between 1900 and 1933 can be secured by knowing what happened in the birth and death registration areas, but before 1900 there was no Federal reporting, and only a few states and cities kept their own records.

At different times in the past, compilations have been made on births and deaths which help in working out trends. In an early census, for instance, people were asked about those who died in the preceding year. Census information secured throughout the nineteenth century dealt with children under five, so that by allowing for those who died or were not reported, some idea of the number of children born during the preceding five years could be secured.

When a trend has been found, then the population expert must begin thinking about what caused the trend and where it is likely to lead—and hope his conclusions are correct.

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