

## ANTHROPOLOGY

### Eskimo studies set

Eskimo culture is to be the subject of a five-year study conducted within the framework of the International Biological Program—a 60-nation program of fundamental research into the problems of biological productivity and human survival in a world undergoing rapid technological change.

The genetics, physiology, pathology and ecology of three Eskimo communities of the Igloodik region will be studied. The region is on the edge of Melville Peninsula, close to Baffin Island, about 750 miles north of Churchill, Manitoba, and lies along the ancient Eskimo migration route from Alaska to Greenland.

Preliminary studies so far have indicated:

- The Igloodik Eskimos are in a generally good state of physical and dental health. The teeth of children were in much worse shape than those found in older people. This is attributed to such things as soft drinks and candy, introduced as part of the transition from native to Western food.

- Tuberculosis is not as significant as was anticipated, and no gross malnutrition is evident.

- The problem of alcohol, a cause of concern in many Eskimo communities, is not yet of any significance at Igloodik.

- Data tend to confirm other studies that picture the Eskimo not as obese but as typically muscular and stocky. Four obese Eskimos were found, but this is tentatively attributed to biochemical disorders.

## PSYCHOLOGY

### The influence of social class

The critical factors relating social class to life style are education and the opportunity to obtain a more desirable and personally satisfying job, a researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health has found.

Dr. Melvin L. Kohn, chief of the Laboratory of Socio-environmental Studies at NIMH, interested in the influence of social class on life, has been involved in three studies, one during the 1950's of working- and middle-class whites in Washington, D.C., a similar study in Turin, Italy, and a nationwide study of U.S. men. His results are to be published by the Dorsey Press in "Class and Conformity: A Study in Values."

Dr. Kohn has found:

- Middle-class parents, who had more education and who were involved in occupations they enjoyed, emphasized self-direction to their children. When their children misbehaved, they were more concerned with the reason for the behavior rather than with any direct result of punishment for the act.

- Working-class parents, with less education and the need to stay in their jobs for the security, were apt to teach their children conformity to external standards. They generally responded in relation to the direct consequences when their children misbehaved.

The conformity of people at lower-class levels, says Dr. Kohn, is largely a carry-over from the limitations of their educational and occupational experiences. "For most people," he says, "self-directed values and orientation require formal educational experience."

october 4, 1969

## VIOLENCE

### Commission reports on TV violence

There has been a favorable trend in the cutback of televised violence, but some programs still contribute to violence in America, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence reported last week.

The commission, chaired by Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, recommends:

- More industry research into the effects of television violence.

- Greater parental efforts to supervise children's TV viewing.

- Abandonment of cartoons that involve serious, non-comic violence.

- More expressions of public approval and disapproval to the programming of networks.

The commission asked for Presidential and Congressional support of a corporation for public broadcasting so it may develop "the kind of educational, cultural and dramatic programming not presently provided in sufficient measure by commercial broadcasting."

## DEMOGRAPHY

### House votes on bills

A further step has been taken to modify the existing census laws.

Last week the House passed a bill introduced by the House Census and Statistics Subcommittee in July (SN: 7/26, p. 82) calling for repeal of the 60-day jail sentence for failure to answer census questions. The bill also gives some Congressional committees power to veto future census questions. The Senate still must act on the bill. The Commerce Department argued against repealing the jail sentence. No sentence has ever been imposed, but its very existence encourages honest answers, the department contended.

At the same time the House defeated a proposal to make the future census voluntary except for basic questions needed for a population count.

## FAMILY PLANNING

### The two-child family

Two children should be the limit for the U.S. family, a population control organization urges.

A resolution was passed unanimously by the Association for Voluntary Sterilization urging that American parents "irrespective of race, economic status, educational background or age range, should adopt as a social and family ideal the principle of the two-child family."

It is the first time a national organization has gone on record for a specific family size, says the AVS.

The association also asks that the medical profession make voluntary sterilization more freely available to those who want no more children, regardless of the number of children applicants already have.

The resolution points to the rapidly deteriorating physical environment and diminishing quality of American life as the result of overpopulation. These dangerous trends can best be halted, the AVS states, if the U.S. achieves a stabilized population growth rate.

303