

POPULATION

Difficult Changes Ahead, Population Experts Warn

Rural Population Increased for First Time Known; Elderly and Middle Aged Increasing in Numbers

A WARNING that people in the United States must make difficult adjustments in social and economic life to meet developments that the 1940 Census reveals, is sounded by 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 pattern of population growth in the United States during the past ten years differs significantly from that of previous decades," they will declare in the December issue of the *American Sociological Review*.

Main changes to watch, because they have significant influence on economics and social problems, are these, named by the population analysts:

1. The more rapid growth of the South than of the Northeast.
2. Increasing proportion of the population in smaller cities and suburban areas.
3. Rapid declines in certain rural sections and increases in others.
4. Trend toward an older population.

The largest absolute increase in population, 5,273,000, is revealed among the middle-aged people, in the 45- to 64-year group, in an estimate from Census

figures thus far given out. This is the group said to have increasing trouble finding work in industrial plants and commercial establishment, the population experts point out. Rapid growth of this part of the population is seen aggravating the already serious problems of teaching older workers new tasks.

The oldest group of Americans, people over 65, are also increasing at a rate which equals swift growth of the entire nation 50 years ago. These elderly people, who are apt to be not entirely self-supporting, will continue to increase at about the present rate for 20 or 30 years, Dr. Thompson and Dr. Whelpton foresee.

"It is almost certain that in the nation as a whole the proportion of the population living in rural areas increased for the first time in our Census history," they also state.

Some time will elapse before the new 1940 Census figures are released showing exactly what is happening to population in the smallest cities of less than 10,000 and among farming and non-farming people in rural neighborhoods. The population analysts suspect that non-farming people of country neighborhoods will prove to be increasing faster than the farmers.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1940



MOST MODERN HOSPITAL

This skyscraper in Richmond puts Dixie ahead in modern institutions for care of the sick. It is completely air conditioned and has all sorts of equipment for comfort and care of patients.

and observers, who will be behind glass partitions.

Elimination of the traffic congestion for students and visiting physicians usually created by the teaching amphitheater in the center of a large hospital.

Lighting system which makes it impossible for a light ever to shine in a patient's face.

Unique signal system for private patients whereby those able to talk will telephone messages directly to the nurse's station and those unable to talk will be able to get a message to the nurse by a special attachment on the telephone.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1940

CHEMISTRY

Miss Muffet's Dish Now Can Be Made Into Wine

WINE can be made from milk, instead of the traditional grapes, by a newly developed process. (*National Dairy Sealtest Laboratories*.) Whey, a milk by-product left over in the manufacture of cheese and casein, is the source. Such wine is not yet on the market but it is said that it can be made either in the sherry or sauterne type, with about 15 per cent alcoholic content.

Science News Letter, December 7, 1940

MEDICINE

Dixie's Skyscraper Hospital Is Topped by Plane Beacon

WITH the opening in Richmond of the 20-story, \$2,500,000 skyscraper hospital of the Medical College of Virginia, Dixie will have what hospital authorities declare is the nation's most modern building for the care of the sick and for medical teaching.

A preview of the hospital, from the federal government specified airplane beacon on top to the 16-ton-per-day ice manufacturing plant in the sub-basement, was shown to 3,500 invited guests.

Complete air-conditioning throughout the hospital is one of the many modern features in the building. The system will be used for heating and humidifying in winter, for introduction of fresh air in summer, and in the beginning, for cooling of the first and the operating room floors in summer. Other ultra-modern features of the hospital are:

Microphones providing two-way communication between nurses and physicians in operating and delivery rooms