

POPULATION

300 Million Population?

► WE might have a population up to 300,000,000 by the year 2000 and most population experts are wrong in figuring that this country will ever reach a peak point of population. This is the opinion of Dr. Joseph S. Davis, economist and sociologist, who is head of the Food Research Institute at Stanford University, Calif.

Our population in 2000 is likely to be under 200,000,000 and if we don't reach a peak in population in the next 50 years, we will soon thereafter, according to Dr. Philip Hauser, director of the government's Bureau of the Census. Terming Dr. Davis' idea on population trends, "utter nonsense," Dr. Hauser said that he had a high respect for Dr. Davis' opinions in his own fields of economy and sociology.

Dr. Davis expressed his ideas on population in a pamphlet entitled "The Population Upsurge in the United States" published recently by Stanford's Food Research Institute. He based his reasoning on the large increase in the birth rate during the 1940's, a factor which he says was not foreseen by population statisticians.

He warned business, private investors, farmers and the government that they should reconsider their long-range planning to take into account what he predicts will be a much expanded population.

However, Dr. Hauser says that the increased birth rate of the 40's was merely a cyclical fluctuation and that the long-range trend, supported by studies and statistics of 150 years, is sufficient backing for the belief that the increase in population in the next 50 years will not double and that either during that period or shortly thereafter, our population will level off. "I will lay odds on this and cash in on it," said Dr. Hauser.

Dr. Davis also disputes the population experts on size of the aged group in our population. Said he, "Forecasts for the percentage of the population constituted by the upper age groups have been rendered wholly untrustworthy by the unforeseen flood of births in the 1940's and the rate of improvement in life expectancy at ages below 60 . . . The rapidity of the prospective aging of the population as a whole has been exaggerated."

Dr. Hauser considers that the increase in the percentage of the aged will still continue to rise much faster than Dr. Davis expects. He once more points to long term trends and also to the advances in medicine which are beginning to tackle the diseases of the aged.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

MEDICINE

Films Help Mentally Ill

► MOVING picture films can be used to help mentally sick patients back to health, Dr. Miguel Prados of Montreal, Can., declared at the meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, Atlantic City, N.J.

The films he has been using are carefully selected to suit the particular patients he is treating. They are not the ones you see when you go to your neighborhood theater. And after seeing the picture, the group of patients has a discussion session with the psychiatrist.

"Hostility" and "Rejection" are the titles of the two films he has used. They were made by the Canadian Film Board for mental health education of parents, teachers, social workers and others working with children. Their use in treatment of patients is new.

"I can see myself as Margaret in so many things," one patient said referring to a character in "Rejection."

"Her life history was not exactly like mine, but many things that happened in the movie hit home with tremendous force," this patient continued during the group discussion.

"That was just like my mother. That was just the way I responded, but I think it should have been handled differently," said another patient.

These comments from the patients show that seeing the film helps the patients release feelings they cannot formulate by themselves when talking to the doctor. In this way, with the material brought up by the film for discussion, the pictures help toward the patient's recovery.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

AERONAUTICS-NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Bombers Powered by Atomic Energy Might Circle World

► SUPERSONIC bombers might make non-stop trips around the earth if powered by atomic energy, the National Conference on Industrial Hydraulics was told in Chicago by Andrew Kalitinsky. He is working at Oak Ridge Laboratories, Tenn., under sponsorship of the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation on atomic power for planes.

Atomic energy as a source of power for aircraft promises airplanes combining ex-

tremely high speed with almost unlimited range, he said. Atomic power offers fuels such as uranium that would not be consumed nearly so fast as those in chemically fueled planes.

Developing a nuclear aircraft power plant will be difficult, he asserted. But there are several basic types of power plants that can be adapted to utilize this power. All are thermal power plants, since fission energy is released predominantly in the form of heat. He cited turbo-props, turbo-jets, ram-jets and rockets as examples.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

Words in Science— TRAPEZIUM-TRAPEZOID

► TRAPEZIUM is defined, as it was first by Euclid, as a four-sided plane figure, no two sides of which are parallel. Trapezium is pronounced tra-pe-zi-um, with the accent on the second syllable, giving it a long "e."

A trapezoid, pronounced trap-e-zoid with the accent on the first syllable and a short "e," is also a four-sided figure. It is, however, one in which two of the sides are parallel.

Science News Letter, March 4, 1950

OUT OF MY LATER YEARS

by

ALBERT EINSTEIN

THIS IS THE FIRST new collection of papers, since 1936, by the eminent physicist. A considerable number of these essays have never been published before in any language.

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