

POPULATION

Birth Control Policy Urged

Director of the population research training center at the University of Chicago warns that the population explosion threatens our standard of living.

► A NATIONAL POLICY of birth control may be required to overcome the serious and dangerous consequences of the current growing population explosion in the United States, Dr. Philip M. Hauser, director of the population research training center at the University of Chicago, warns.

The simultaneous increase in the birth rate and decrease in the death rate has added about 48,000,000 persons to the U. S. population in the past 20 years.

"As a matter of sound national policy," Dr. Hauser says, "it seems clear that we cannot indefinitely maintain our present national rate of increase—a rate which would double our population in less than 40 years."

He says the "advantages of death control can be maintained only if accompanied by compensating birth control."

Dr. Hauser's statements appear in the Population Bulletin of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 16:92, 1960.

The U. S. population explosion is most evident in the increased size of urban centers. Although this growth has brought with it many material and cultural advantages, it also has "precipitated or worsened" such social disorders as "family disorganization, delinquency, alcoholism, drug addiction, unemployment and political corruption."

Dr. Hauser estimates that juvenile delinquency in the 15- to 19-year age group will increase in the 60's by 44% "by reason of the increase in the size of the age group alone."

The number of economic dependents is rising as a consequence of the postwar baby boom. The population expert says this has produced for the first time in the U. S. "a situation in which mouths are growing more rapidly than hands."

Improved technology and increased investments have maintained living levels. But Dr. Hauser warns that "population factors, for the first time in our national history, are clearly operating to decrease levels of living."

Metropolitan areas are faced with the serious problem of urban renewal and new and expanded housing and other facilities to accommodate the burgeoning population.

At current per capita costs for urban services, \$33 billion must be invested in this decade alone "merely to provide such services for the anticipated increase in the metropolitan area population."

Population expansion already has meant traffic congestion of proportions that will make "inevitable" a return to mass transit, "involving tremendous private and public outlays."

Dr. Hauser lists the expansion of Government functions on local, state and Federal levels as one of the great costs of this expanded urban growth. He says that the increased complexities involved in urbanism "as a way of life . . . bring more regulation, paradoxically enough, to preserve our freedom."

The Chicago authority on the growth of human societies also cautions against those who favor expanding population as a se-

curity measure and urge on this basis that we "outbreed" our potential enemies.

Dr. Hauser says, "A competition in breeding between the Free World and the communist bloc could only reduce us more rapidly to their miserably low level of living and would invite, rather than retard, the expansion of Communism."

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MEDICINE

Home Care Program Cuts Cancer Costs

► THE BURDENSOME COST of cancer is reduced and patients' morale improved through a home care program of the George Washington University Cancer Clinic, Washington, D. C. The program includes regular visits by physicians, nurses and social workers.

The program, designed for patients who are too ill to attend the clinic and who do not require continuous hospital care, is praised in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 173:1530, 1960, by Dr. Cyril A. Schulman, director of the home care work of the clinic.

"Apparently such things as devotion, comforts of home and catering to one's whims of diet do make for a decided difference in the patient's health and attitude," he says.

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MEDICINE

Babies of Drug Addicts Born With Narcotic Habit

► A NEWBORN BABY'S addiction to morphine or one of its derivatives such as heroin may begin many months before it is born.

Two New York University pediatricians, Drs. Annabelle Vincow and Alvin Hackel, report in GP, 22:90, 1960, published by the American Academy of General Practice, that 12 drug-addicted infants were born at Bellevue Hospital during a recent nine-month period. One study, on a group of untreated cases, showed a 93% death rate.

The babies had been getting opiates from their mothers' systems before birth. They suffered withdrawal tortures after they were born. Their nervous systems became violently overactive. In severe cases they had convulsions and died.

The two physicians recommend that such babies remain hospitalized, be allowed to breathe moist oxygen and be fed through a nasal tube or intravenously because they are often nauseated and ignore bottles.

As with many adults, drug substitutes must be used and then slowly withdrawn.

Drs. Vincow and Hackel urge obstetricians to check the mothers for signs of addiction before the babies are born. If the mother can go without drugs for a week or ten days prior to delivery, the baby usually will not suffer withdrawal symptoms.

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THE LARC-15—After a test run on land and water from Kalamazoo to Chicago, this aluminum "cargo lighter" is ready for business. The combination cargo and personnel carrier for ship-to-shore deliveries was developed by the U. S. Army Transportation Research Command. The LARC-15 derives its name from "Lighter, amphibious, resupply, cargo."