SOCIETY

Negro Poverty Decreed

NEW FIGURES revealing how drastically poor Negroes are are reported by Dr. Herbert Asbury, chairman of the University of Chicago's sociology department.

He defined poverty level as spending 22 cents or less for each person in the family for each meal, the standard set under the national poverty program.

If all the Negro children in the U.S. in families with one child under 18 are considered, then 62% of the children were being raised at or below poverty levels in 1963.

If the family had five children under 18, then the figure jumped to 84% for the Negro youngsters in the U.S. subsisting in poverty, Dr. Hauser said.

If the poverty figure is raised to 26 cents per person for each meal a day, the level set by the U.S. government for being the first to integrate, then the percentage of those subsisting in poverty becomes extremely high in both cases. This is because poor families are very hard pressed to find even an extra 36 to 84 cents a day.

The Negro is the newest immigrant group in the U.S., Dr. Hauser told the Tenth Air Force Office of Scientific Research seminar.

EDUCATION

Degree Value Questioned

THE FUTURE of education is threatened by the tendencies of universities to honorability of students to verbalize on the past, Dr. Margaret Mead, anthropologist and author, declared upon the occasion of receiving an honorary degree from the University of Cincinnati.

"While a few of the great universities may be able to tolerate a gifted scholar or scientist who neglected the ritual Ph.D.," Dr. Mead said, "increasingly, in a too-narrow attempt to raise standards, the smaller and the poorer institutions are tempted to insist on degrees rather than ability."

"Accrediting associations find it easier to count the books in the library, the degrees and the publications of the faculty, regardless of quality, and to neglect the teaching that goes on in the classroom, where human beings are being shaped for the future."

"Some accrediting groups do place quality above quantity, do observe closely the direct work with students, but they must fight constantly against slipping into paper work."

Dr. Mead paid tribute to the University of Cincinnati for being the first to integrate the Central Psychiatric Clinic and Child Guidance Home, both Community Chest agencies, into one of its departments.

Children's Hospital, part of the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, was praised for "planning a cot for the mother in each room for a child," thus resisting a hospital trend, which she decreed, of separating patients from family.

Dr. Robert J. Huebner, laboratory chief of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, Md., was given an honorary doctor of laws degree by the University of Cincinnati at the same convocation.

A special gold medal was presented the university's two distinguished service professors, Dr. Albert B. Sabin, research pediatrics in the College of Medicine and Children's Research Hospital Foundation, and Dr. Paul Hinchliffe, dean of the university's Cincinnati Observatory.

Questions

BIOTECHNOLOGY—What substances may be used in the future to produce electricity? p. 34.

CHEMISTRY—What new technique may be valuable in the analysis of DNA molecules? p. 34.

GEOLOGY—How will one-half of the U.S. petroleum output be obtained by 1800? p. 43.

ICHTHYOLOGY—How are usually hardy yellow bullhead fish harmed by detergents in the water? p. 40.

MEDICINE—Which species of malaria parasites are associated with the synthetic drug chloroquine? p. 35.

PUBLIC HEALTH—How may hovemeyer sufferers may develop asthma? p. 42.

S C I E N C E N E W S L E T T E R

VOL. 88 JULY 17, 1965 NO. 3

Edited by WATSON DAVIS

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N. W. St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20003. NORTHERN 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENCEYERY.

Subscription rates: 1 yr. $3.50; 2 yrs., $7.00; 3 yrs., $11.50; ten or more copies in one package to one address, $1.75 per copy per year; single copy, 95 cents, more than 10 cents, more than 10 cents, more than 10 cents.
No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.


SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.
