

PUBLIC HEALTH

Better Health of Depression Explained by Authority

By DR. S. J. CRUMBINE, General Executive of the American Child Health Association.

ONE OF the anomalous situations that may be noted at this time is that, contrary to what we might have expected from three years of depression and privation, the general mortality rate for the past year in the United States is lower than usual, and that the infant mortality rate for the same year is the lowest on record.

The question naturally arises, "How can this be? Do want and privation make for better health and long life, or are there other factors that despite the stress of recent years our general mortality curve continues its downward trend?"

No intelligent person will subscribe to the idea that hard times are in themselves an aid to health, but they probably bring with them compensating benefits.

In the first place, considering people as a whole, there have undoubtedly been fewer excesses in the way of eating, drinking and other physical pleasures during the past three years. Moreover there are marked indications that the intensive spread of sound information on essentials of diet has resulted in more effective use of the family's money for food. These obviously are constructive aids to health.

Secondly, community interest and enterprise has been and is assembled to fight want and alleviate suffering.

Thirdly, and over and above all, there have been operating the constructive force set in motion through departments of health, departments of education, the progress of scientific medicine, particularly in the field of preventive medicine, and through the educating and socializing influence of the voluntary health organizations. All these combine in accumulating and disseminating health knowledge, in the formation of health attitudes and in the practice of health habits.

While these compensating influences continue we may hope for an ever-increasing standard of public health and for continued low mortality rates to which we have as a nation become accustomed. At the same time it must be remembered that the cumulative effects of present undernourishment and privation may show more clearly in later years, especially in the form of lowered resistance to disease. Any attempt, therefore, to abandon or curtail the efforts of those agencies which are now doing so much to keep up health standards and promote health practices would be a fatal mistake.

Science News Letter, October 1, 1932

Archaeologists excavating ruins of about 2000 B. C., at Damghan, Persia, found the burial of a dancing girl whose body and hands were laid out in an elegant dancing pose, and who was decked with many beautiful ornaments.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER published weekly at Baltimore, Md., for October 1, 1932.
Washington
District of Columbia } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia aforesaid, personally appeared Watson Davis, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

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Watson Davis,
Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of September, 1932.

[SEAL]

Charles L. Wade.

(My commission expires April 6, 1933.)

PSYCHOLOGY

Splitting of Psychology Into Two Sciences Urged

THE division of psychology into two distinct sciences was urged upon the American Psychological Association by Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, director of the Laboratories of Comparative Psychology of Yale University. It would clarify the situation now existing, where principles are in dispute and there are conflicting schools and cults, to have one science centered on man and using introspective methods with a social and philosophical discipline, and another objective, a natural science, he said. He would call them psychology and psychobiology.

Science News Letter, October 1, 1932

A card catalogue of weather terms, kept at the U. S. Weather Bureau, contains almost 15,000 items.

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