

that after repeated doses of hormone from the anterior pituitary gland, the body builds up a resistance to the hormone, an anti-hormone effect. They were trying to find whether this anti-hormone effect would also be produced by repeated injections of the female sex

hormone when they discovered that excess amounts of the hormone did produce tissue changes similar to the beginning stages of cancer. In their experiments they used a hormone prepared by Dr. A. Girard of Paris.

Science News Letter, March 2, 1935

POPULATION

Number Aged Over 65 May Double in Next 35 Years

One Out of Every Ten Persons Will Be in This Group By 1970, is Estimate; Half Will be Dependent

THE NUMBER of persons over 65 years of age which will be affected by the legislation for old-age pensions now before Congress is expected to increase greatly in the next few years, doubling in number in 35 years.

America is rapidly growing older. Thirty-five years ago, at the beginning of the century, about 4,000,000 people in the United States were 65 or older. Today 7,500,000 persons are in that age group. By 1970, the aged will be increased to more than 15,000,000. This outlook for a rapidly aging population is revealed in figures presented to President Roosevelt by the Committee on Economic Security.

Thus, the report indicates, the problem of old-age security is one not of immediate relief alone, but of provision for a growing need in the future.

Not only are the numbers of old people increasing, as one might expect in a growing population, but the proportion of old people is also becoming magnified. In 1900, America had just a fraction over 4 per cent. in the age group over 65. By 1930, this proportion had increased to 5.4. But by 1970 the Committee expects the percentage to

have reached 10. Of every hundred men, women, and children in the United States 35 years from now, ten will be 65 years old or older.

If you are now a young man of 30, what are your prospects for the future? If you live for the next 35 years, you will then be one of the 15,000,000 people in the United States in the "old age" group. The chances at present are about 50-50 that you will be dependent, either on relatives, friends, or public charity.

Not so many people over 65 are finding employment as they did in the past. If you have been a long time with one firm, a survey has revealed, you are less likely to be dismissed than a younger worker. If you have drifted about a good bit from job to job, you will not have that advantage. In case you do lose your job, you are far less apt to secure new employment than younger workers are.

The Committee estimates that although 31.6 per cent. of the men over 65 were unemployed in 1900, that high figure has increased to 41.7 per cent in 1930. And the tendency is still upward.

Will you have saved enough to take care of yourself during your old age? That depends upon your present income. Five and three-quarter million families in the United States had in 1929 an income of \$1,000 or less. They were not able to put aside anything for approaching rainy days. Ten and a half million families, the most representative American group, made between \$1,000 and \$2,000 dollars. These families saved a total of \$750,000,000. A little manipulation of a calculating machine will show you that that seemingly large sum, when divided ten and a half million ways, gives a sum for each family of but \$71. How long could you live on less than a hundred dollars?

The man who lives to be 65 years old may reasonably expect to live 11 or 12 years longer. Women, at the same age, may expect to live 15 years. If you should be among the 15,000,000 who are 65 in 1970, and you wish to have an income of \$25 a month for the rest of your life, you should have saved, the Committee estimates, about \$3,300 or \$3,600, not \$71.

Only families having incomes larger than \$10,000 a year save as much as this amount on the average.

"If only this amount of income is allowed to all of the people of 65 years and over, the cost of support of the aged would represent a claim upon current national production of \$2,000,000,000 per year," the Committee reports. "Regardless of what may be done to improve their condition this cost of supporting the aged will continue to increase. In another generation it will be at least double the present total."

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PSYCHOLOGY

Children's Nicknames Merely Lead to Fights

CHILDREN'S nicknames, in 95 cases out of 100, have no value and merely lead to resentment, ill feeling, fighting and quarreling, Drs. Samuel Z. Orgel and Jacob Tuckman of New York City reported to the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

These scientists studied the nicknames of 235 boys and 75 girls, of average normal intelligence and ranging in age from 8 to 16 years, who live at a child-caring institution of the cottage-plan type sponsored by the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society of New York.

Only 3.5 per cent. of the boys and 4 per cent. of the girls had no nicknames. Girls use nicknames of the affec-

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