



IN THIS ISSUE

IN therapeutic, preventive, and war medicine the nurse occupies a position of importance that is second only to the doctor. The increased demand for nursing in the armed forces leaves fewer nurses available for civilian needs. The article "Frequency and Volume of Nursing Service in Relation to all Illnesses Among 9,000 Families," by Selwyn D. Collins, is of interest because it provides factual information on the civilian uses of nursing service in a non-wartime period. Such information is useful in estimating present civilian needs.



The conventional method of constructing life tables is that of starting with 100,000 males and 100,000 females at birth and computing the number of survivors at successive ages on the basis of given schedules of age-specific mortality. In an article, "The Age-Sex Composition of the Population Resulting from Natality and Mortality Conditions," Dr. J. Yerushalmy of the Division of Research in the Children's Bureau departs from this convention by starting with an excess of males on the basis of the sex ratio at birth. His chief interest was to ascertain the sex composition at successive ages resulting from the joint influences of sex ratio at birth and sex differences in age-specific mortality. The resulting data serve two main purposes. If used judiciously, they afford a basis for judging the accuracy of actual age data in the census. The author compares the sex composition at successive ages in his life table with actual age-specific sex ratios derived from census material and discusses the possible bearing of several factors, including census inaccuracies, on certain marked discrepancies. The second major use demonstrated by the author is that of constructing a single life table for males and females combined, adjusted for sex.

The war has accelerated appreciation of mass radiology in the detection of tuberculous disease, for war means the assembling of large numbers of men in the armed forces, and the x-ray survey is the most effective method of screening out the symptomless case. In the article "The Cost of Tuberculosis Control in the Department of Health of New York City," Dr. H. R. Edwards gives a careful accounting of mass survey costs, and costs of other methods of case finding. Cost data are important for they provide a basis for planning a practical program for the control of tuberculosis.



The present need for industrial manpower has focussed attention on the possibility of wider use of the physically handicapped in the battle of production. Government, industry, and labor are asking how the tuberculous worker can be utilized in the present industrial set-up. The article "The Sheltered Workshop in the Rehabilitation of the Tuberculous" by Dr. Louis E. Siltzbach is especially timely. From the experience of the Altro Work Shops over a period of twenty-five years, it is concluded that the successfully treated part-time and full-time tuberculous worker can be integrated into the manning of the war industries with benefit to the nation and to the worker himself.