

## IN THIS ISSUE

A STUDY of the volume of medical services received by a population composed of families in the original Eastern Health District of Baltimore is presented in the paper "Medical Care Among Males and Females at Specific Ages," by Jean Downes and Elizabeth H. Jackson. The study is of interest chiefly because it shows the extent to which a wage-earning population utilized medical service for illness in an area where the immediate neighborhood afforded abundant facilities for such service.

Medical services are shown for acute and chronic illness by type of visit, home or office, and by type of attendant. It was concluded that the ready availability of hospital outpatient clinics made it possible for some patients to receive medical care for illness who otherwise would probably have had none. This paper should be of special interest to those engaged in planning for adequate medical facilities on a community basis.



Public health activities related to mental health are relatively new but many public health administrators recognize the need and the potential great service that might be rendered in this field. Because of the interest in mental-health programs, an article on "Psychiatric Service in Relation to Public-Health Activities," by Dr. Jules V. Coleman, is reprinted from *Mental Hygiene* (July, 1950).

Dr. Coleman explores the creative possibilities for psychiatric participation in public health. His main thesis is that public health carries a large and important responsibility for mental health in terms of its own practice and its own functions. It deals with masses of people who have the usual run of psy-

chiatric problems. Better practice of public health may result if consideration is given to the principles of comprehensive medicine. Psychiatrists, acting as consultants and educators in a staff-oriented program, may make a significant contribution in this new epidemiological approach to the mental-hygiene problem.

This article should be of great interest to public health administrators as well as to specialists in the field of mental hygiene.



It is often stated that economic insecurity engendered by modern urban life is one of the factors in the long-time decline of the birth rate. Underlying much of the pronatalist legislation in other countries is the assumption that people will have more children if their feeling of economic security is strengthened. Nevertheless, very little in the way of inductive data on the relation of size of planned family to economic security has been available. Materials on this problem are presented in this issue as the eleventh in a series of reports on "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility." This report, prepared by Clyde V. Kiser and P. K. Whelpton, carries the subtitle "The Interrelation of Fertility, Fertility Planning, and Feeling of Economic Security."