

rather than that of the four wishes, for which Thomas will be longest remembered.

**SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND PERSONALITY** is far more than a memorial volume. Volkhart's analysis of Thomas' concepts, the meaningful way in which the selections have been organized, the inclusion of previously unpublished materials, and the inherent value of the subject matter, combine to make this book a useful contribution to the literature of social psychology as well as an addition to the personal stature of W. I. Thomas.

RICHARD T. LAPIERE

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### DEMOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

**A**CCORDING to the author, "This book has been written mainly to provide a connected account of the principles and methods employed in the study of population for actuarial students and for all who are concerned with population statistics" (v). His purposeful restriction of the book to methodology is evinced at the outset by the statement "Where demography impinges upon the social sciences, on economics and on politics, due reference is made to the fact, but the subject is not pursued out of its natural limits into these tempting byways" (vi).

The book contains fifteen chapters, an addendum concerning the Report of the Royal Commission on Population, and three annexes giving census data for England, Wales, and Scotland. Throughout the book, as one might expect, the author relies mainly upon British materials for his examples and exposition of technique. This feature may make the book somewhat less attractive than it otherwise might be to teachers of demography in other countries. Nevertheless, the book probably will be used fairly widely in classrooms in non-British countries simply because of its merits as an able, scholarly, concise, and lucid exposition of the principles and methods of demography.

Following an introductory discussion of the scope and historical aspects of demography, are chapters on census enumera-

<sup>1</sup> COX, Peter R.: **DEMOGRAPHY**, London and New York, Cambridge University Press, 1950, 326 pp., 20 shillings (\$4.00 in U. S.).

tion, vital registration, migration records, sample population surveys, the analysis of mortality data, methods of comparing mortality experiences, the statistical investigation of fertility, marriage, the measurement of disability, the growth of population in England and Wales, population projection, a survey of some projections of the British population, Scottish demographic data, and suggestions for further study and research.

Although the book includes two chapters on mortality data, it contains virtually nothing on the theory and construction of the life table. This omission was deliberate and is explained by the fact that the subject is being covered in two other books by other authors, scheduled for publication for the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries. Nevertheless, this omission seriously undercuts the possibility of using Cox's work as a self-sufficient textbook.

Another rather noticeable omission is that of discussion of the rate of natural increase. The crude death rate is introduced in the chapter on mortality and the crude birth rate is briefly discussed in the chapter on fertility. The inadequacy of each is discussed but there is no statement that the chief value of these two rates arises from the fact that the difference between them affords the rate of natural increase. In fact, the "uninitiated" might have difficulty in understanding the relation between these two rates. The crude birth rate is described by the conventional formula:

$$\frac{\text{Number of live births in year}}{\text{Total population.}}$$

Instead of giving a parallel formula for the crude death rate, however, the author risks leaving the student bewildered with the information that the crude death rate is represented by:

$$R_t^A = \frac{\sum {}^tP_x \cdot {}^tm_x}{\sum {}^tP_x}$$

The reviewer encountered a misinterpretation within one of the author's rare excursions into data for other countries. In the discussion of mortality by color in Tennessee the author states: "The non-whites could not properly be subdivided into Negroes, Mexicans, Red Indians, Chinese and so on, as is

strictly necessary, because the death certificate information is deficient in this respect . . ." (p. 85.) One more familiar with as whites since the Census of 1940, and (b) that virtually all the data would know (a) that Mexicans have been classified of the nonwhites in Tennessee are Negroes. The 1940 Census reported over one-half million Negroes but only 199 nonwhites other than Negroes in Tennessee.

Cox's statement that "Edmund Halley . . . was the first to attempt to construct a life table on correct principles, that is, by the use of both population and deaths" needs some qualification. Lacking actual population data, Halley found it necessary to assume a stationary population. Fundamentally, as Newsholme has stated, Halley's life table "was based on deaths alone, *not on a comparison of the deaths and living at each age. . . .*" (*Italics Newsholme's.*<sup>2</sup>)

Although this book was published for the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries, it is by no means simply a "manual" or "handbook." The author never forgets that his task is to discuss principles as well as methods. Throughout the book there are repeated statements about conditions affecting the quality of the data, the possibility of concealed factors affecting variations in mortality and fertility rates, and the like. "The quality which is, perhaps, the most needed for success in demography is a proper understanding of the difficulties involved in the interpretation of the statistical data and the dangers inherent in their use to provide estimates applicable to future years" (v).

Although the author laments the frequent tendency "to assume without justification that apparent observed 'trends' will continue in the future" (v), he nevertheless recognizes the value of population projections for purposes of administration and planning, and devotes a chapter to methods in population projection. He emphasizes, however, that in the whole field of

<sup>2</sup> Newsholme, Sir Arthur: *THE ELEMENTS OF VITAL STATISTICS*. New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1924, p. 232.

For similar appraisals, *see*:

Westergaard, Harold: *CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORY OF STATISTICS*. London, P. S. King & Son, Ltd., 1932, pp. 32-34.

Henderson, Robert: *MORTALITY STATISTICS*. New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1915, pp. 2-3.

demographic data there are "many traps into which the uninitiated may fall unless he is cautious and not over-anxious to obtain impressive results. To make available a proper and unbiased interpretation and to prevent wrong conclusions being drawn by others should be the chief aims of all demographers" (v).

CLYDE V. KISER

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### PHARMACOPOEA INTERNATIONALIS<sup>1</sup>

**T**HIS appearance of the first international pharmacopeia under the imprint of the World Health Organization achieves the unification of pharmacopeias. In contrast to it, national pharmacopeias have reflected differences in the standards, strengths, and nomenclature of drugs of the various countries. These differences have been a source, if not of inconvenience and actual danger, of retardation in the spread of pharmaceutical knowledge. Unification in this international pharmacopeia is, therefore, more to be expected than explained. It is a welcome, long-awaited volume and another triumph for the World Health Organization.

H. D. KRUSE, M.D.

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### COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR HUMAN SERVICES<sup>2</sup>

**W**HAT is the "American way of life?" Although the term is widely used, no adequate definitive description of what it consists has been made. Whatever else it includes, the pervasiveness and great extent of social services of the far-flung communities of the United States and the interesting intertwining of voluntary and tax-supported social services would stand out conspicuously in any effort to express the meaning of

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization: PHARMACOPOEA INTERNATIONALIS. Geneva, Editio Prima, Volumen I, 1951.

<sup>2</sup> Buell, Bradley and Community Research Associates, Inc. COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR HUMAN SERVICES. Columbia University Press. 464 pages. \$5.50.