

is an important source of economic aid in the life of at least one Jewish community in Poland.

Polish Jews Plan in Behalf of Jews in Poland

At the World Conference of Polish Jews, held in London early last September, several resolutions were adopted, the more important ones being: to support all Jewish educational and cultural institutions irrespective of class or shade of opinion; to publish a World Federation periodical; to establish a fund to promote the emigration of Jews to other countries; to establish an Advisory Bureau and a loan bank in Palestine for Jewish immigrants from Poland; to establish a fund to assist neglected and orphan children to emigrate from Poland and to settle them in Palestine; and, to effect these and other plans in behalf of the Jews in Poland, to institute a World Appeal for two million dollars through the medium of the various Federations and Societies of Polish Jews in the various countries. The Conference resulted in the founding of a World Federation of Polish Jews Abroad, with offices of the Central Bureau established in London.

Joint Distribution Committee Reports

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has recently issued a comprehensive and interesting printed report of about eighty pages, on its relief and reconstruction activities

abroad for the year 1934. The report, among other things, contains reference sections which should be of special interest to American Jewish social workers who desire to be oriented on the nature and scope of welfare work in European countries. These sections deal with the program of welfare activities in Germany, which include emigration and repatriation aid, school aid, social services, vocational training, economic aid and advisory service, and kindred activities; the situation of the refugees and what is being done in their behalf, by way of vocational training, settlement, relief work and other measures in various countries; activities in Eastern and Central Europe, aside from work in behalf of refugees, such as medical-sanitary service, child-care, cultural-religious work and *Gemiloth-Chessed Kassa* activities.

The report also contains summary statements of the work of the J.D.C.'s affiliated organizations, the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation, the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation, the American Society for Jewish Farm Settlements in Russia and the Palestine Economic Corporation. Coupled with the one issued by the J.D.C. for the year 1933 and early months of 1934, this report makes for a comprehensive survey of what American Jews have in recent years been doing in the field of Social Work in behalf of Jews in Europe. The report is issued by the office headquarters of the Joint Distribution Committee, 7 Hanover Street, New York City.

BOOK REVIEW DEPARTMENT

Edited by GEORGE WOLFE

National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, New York, N. Y.

DYNAMICS OF POPULATION. By Frank Lorimer and Frederick Osborn. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1934. 461 pp., \$4.00.

This book is a carefully documented attempt to evaluate the social and biological significance of changing birth rates in the United States. The authors present in a systematic fashion much recent material from the fields of psychology, education and bio-genetics which is helpful in assisting the reader to draw conclusions of his own as to trends and their relative significance.

The first part of the book, "Population Trends of American Groups," differs but little in the type of material and in its conclusions from Thompson and Whelpton's monograph, *Recent Population Trends in the United States*. There is substantial agreement that American population growth is rapidly coming to an end and that any current increase in population is due chiefly to the fact that an undue proportion of our present population consists of persons of child-bearing ages.

After presenting in the second part of their book material on cultural and intellectual variations of racial, regional, and social groups, the authors go on to their main task of evaluating these group differentials. They find that:

"The only groups in the United States which are at present reproducing at rates far above actual replacement needs are located in certain rural areas, and predominantly in communities that are at the lowest economic levels and most remote from those educational and cultural influences which are held typical of social progress in this country. And within the towns and cities, the lower occupational groups, especially those in marginal economic circumstances, and dependent groups, characterized by low ratings

as regards cultural-intellectual development, are commonly found to have birth rates somewhat above replacement needs and far above the birth rates characteristic of neighboring groups with superior advantages."

Finding a negative association between fertility and cultural-intellectual levels among regional and social groups, the authors express their greatest concern over this problem which "reveals a powerful force that is working against our most cherished national ideals and that threatens to defeat the aims of the whole public education movement. If this force remains unchecked, its eventual political and social repercussions may be tremendous."

Unfortunately, the authors fail to raise any question as to the worthwhileness of "cherished national ideals" which do not permit young folks of desirably high cultural and intellectual groupings to marry at an early enough age to reproduce themselves. That their feelings on this subject have carried them away at this point is indicated by their own material which shows that differentials in group birth rates are tending to lessen as birth control information and practice becomes more general and as the more isolated groups tend to come within the play of current social forces. At the same time the actual biological differences between various groups is much less than is often claimed, as witness Messrs. Lorimer and Osborn's more objective and cautious statements at the end of their long chapter on the biological significance of group differentials:

"There is, at present, no decisive evidence on variations in genetic capacity for intellectual development among large regional groups."
"In view of the ambiguity of the results obtained in the most critical studies on this sub-

ject, we believe it wise absolutely to reserve judgment about the comparative hereditary capacities of large racial groups. Practically, suspension of judgment on this issue is made easier by the consideration that there are at present no great differentials in reproduction rates among large racial or national groups in the United States."

"In any case, however, average differences in capacity for intelligence as associated with social status must be small within the broad middle classes which make up the large majority of American urban population."

Despite the fact that the authors overstated themselves at the point indicated earlier, it must be emphasized that this book is strong on facts and, generally, in its conclusions. It is somewhat ineffectual in its recommendations, where mention is made of the need for a greater emphasis on family values as a means of enlarging that portion of the population that may have most to contribute to social growth. Although mention is also made of the need for some social security, it is only a bare and incidental mention with no stress on the fundamental fact that social change making for economic security of the individual is a prerequisite to any emphasis of family or other cultural values. Young professional people, young intelligent people are not going to have children until they can afford to have them; and, if the state or community will not assist them in some material way, the state and the individuals involved will bear the loss, whatever it may be.

CHARLES FASTOV

JUVENILE PROBATION. By Belle B. Beard. New York: American Book Co., 1934, xiv, 219 pp., \$2.25.

Dr. William Healy opens his foreword to this volume with:

"The fundamentally interesting fact concerning this book by Miss Beard is that it represents a sincere and capable attempt to find out what can be done for delinquents on probation . . . Since so many sources of information are available, it seems that the conclusions embodied in this study are sound. No doubt if a larger or-

ganization of a research staff had been possible, a few more facts would have been forthcoming; but it is the opinion of those who were in direct contact with Miss Beard that the investigative work was carefully conducted and that there is no reason to cavil at her statement of outcomes . . ."

In contrast to the above lines, one reads a later statement of Drs. Healy, Bronner and Shimberg,¹ in which they sum up the criticisms directed against the Gluecks' *One Thousand Juvenile Delinquents*:

These opposing statements are interesting since Miss Beard's study was done under the supervision of the three staff members of the Judge Baker Foundation just mentioned.

Juvenile Probation is an analysis of the case records of four hundred male and one hundred female delinquents studied at the Judge Baker Foundation because they seemed to present the most difficult problems and selected here to determine what happened to them upon probation. One question which Miss Beard hopes to answer by her work here is: ". . . In what respects . . . is the work of the probation officer different from the work of other persons dealing with problem children? Does the probation officer use a specific technique which can be distinguished from that of the visiting teacher and the family case worker . . . ?"

The basic data on these cases are: four-fifths are boys and one-fifth girls; the average age of the boys was thirteen years and of the girls fourteen years; four-fifths of the delinquents were of normal mentality, two-fifths came from broken homes and four-fifths from homes on a low level.

¹"The Close of Another Chapter in Criminology," *Mental Hygiene* XIX, p. 216 (April 1935).

" . . . For example, a recent follow-up study (by Miss Beard) of Boston Juvenile Court probationers gives a rather high percentage of success. This has, however, been computed upon a much more superficial basis and with a set of standards completely different than those of the Gluecks . . ."

"With the exception of sex, these factors, when related to outcome on probation, show no significant differences of success and failure . . . About four-fifths of the group were guilty of offenses against property, one-eighth were brought to court on runaway or stubborn complaints . . . The remaining eighth is equally divided between sex offenses and petty misdemeanors . . . Children committing offenses against property . . . show a relatively larger degree of success than do the other types of offenders . . ."

More important than type of offense is the length of time the offender has been involved in delinquency. "Of all the pre-probation factors discussed . . . duration of delinquency is more closely related to success and failure than any other factor . . ." Miss Beard holds that "the expert study of the delinquent" proves itself to be very valuable; of all the correlations of contingency calculated between the factors mentioned and outcome on probation . . . the clinic prognosis was the only coefficient large enough to be considered as significant." She finds a very definite relationship between outcome and the length of time the offender has been definitely violating the law, with.

" . . . first offenders having twice as many chances of success as those who have been engaged in delinquency for a year or more. The lone offender is the least hopeful from the viewpoint of probation (which bears out similar studies elsewhere) . . . The most significant fact with regard to pre-probation factors is: *No one element or combination of elements discovered by this investigation can definitely preclude the possibility of success.* The Clinical prognosis proves to be by far the best basis for prediction."

Dr. Beard believes that her study indicates the following three essentials for probation treatment: (1) intensive study of the delinquent, (2) the establishment of a confidential relationship between the family and the probation officer and (3) prompt action. She concludes by emphasizing the need for a constant re-evaluation of the work and methods of the probation officer and specifies" . . . It is of paramount importance that the probation officer be trained for his job."

One of the important implications of

this study, the preventive factors in the treatment of delinquency, although mentioned, has been dealt with quite in passing and seemingly as an afterthought. Considerable mention is made, again, of the necessity for employing trained probation officers in the treatment of juveniles; yet nowhere are there found any supporting data for this assertion concerning the qualifications of the persons whose work was examined in such detail. Nor are there to be found supporting data for the analysis of the efforts of these officers. The procedural aspects of the study have been mentioned only, but not sufficiently detailed. The volume undoubtedly has considerable value as a detailed study of a selected series of juvenile delinquents which, in turn, comprise a fraction of the work of the Boston Juvenile Court.

W. ABRAHAM GOLDBERG

SOCIAL SETTLEMENTS IN NEW YORK CITY. By Albert J. Kennedy and Kathryn Farra. New York: Columbia University Press, 1935. 600 pp., \$5.00.

Not since the publication of *Settlement Horizon* by Albert J. Kennedy has there been presented so satisfying an analytical survey of the settlement field as Mr. Kennedy, in collaboration with Miss Kathryn Farra, has given us in *Social Settlements in New York City*. The book summarizes the results of the researches into the several and varied phases of settlement work in New York City. The studies were made during the fall and winter of 1927-28, thus preceding the present era of the crisis. The completeness and thoroughness of this survey prompts the hope for a continuation of the studies to see what the field has done for the lost generation, the young folk of the depression era.

When the next survey is made, it would seem desirable that a different division of time be made by the investigators, so that the bulk of the time is spent in personal contact with club members, clubs and councils, rather than with the headworkers and staff. Furthermore, when it is considered that the investigators visited in person only sixty-six clubs and six council meetings, on the basis of which they filled out schedules for two hundred forty-one club and thirteen house councils it is seen that the study leans too heavily on indirect sources. The importance of this criticism is borne out by Miss Farra's own statement on the paucity of statistical material in most of the houses studied.

"Those responsible for the club work in their houses, headworkers, boys workers and girls workers, selected for this special study a number of clubs which they regarded as representative of the clubs meeting in their respective houses."

If the research workers had been able to get closer to the membership they might have been able to find a more satisfying answer to the problem posed and the challenge made to workers in the field by their study of club work: Why is there so great a lag between goal and accomplishment? Another of the WHY's which engrosses all workers is: Why the short life of clubs? Miss Farra's conclusions present the problems clearly and forcefully. One question, above all, she leaves with her readers to answer, satisfactorily, if they can: Why is one of New York's outstanding social problems left to those outside the social work field? Reference is made to the finding "that there are but a handful of Negroes affiliated with the settlements, except in those two conducted exclusively for Negroes."

A startlingly refreshing chapter is contributed by Miss Farra and Miss Esther Midler, bringing the diagnostic case work

approach to the problem of "personal service" in settlements. Illuminating is the analysis and evaluation of the strength and weaknesses of this potentially valuable department of settlement houses. It is cheering, too, because the application of case work technique to the recreation field has been too long lacking; and it is good to take hope that work in this field is now being raised to the technical level of other fields of social work.

A most important finding, which has permanent implications in these days of building larger and more imposing edifices to house recreation work, appears in Miss Farra's inventory. "Both the Bronx and the Manhattan sections, in which the settlements are concentrated, are sections where the population is declining." Studying five houses Miss Farra offers another challenging finding: "23%, 43%, 46%, 49%, and 60% of the total membership enrolled for the first time during the current year of study." Who will undertake to analyze this impressive fact by a qualitative study which will give due weight to the changing psychological needs of the adolescent? "78% of the membership of the eighteen houses studied for purposes of this analysis is under twenty years of age." In how great a measure are the settlements keeping up with the newer movements in progressive education, and in what measure have the workers been sufficiently elastic to adapt themselves to the new needs of young people in the stress of a changing social order?

It is ungracious, in view of the really fine Job done by the contributing writers to leave the discussion of the work with a question; but the spirit is one of a real desire to see the work of Arnold Toynbee dynamically mature to meet today's world.

RAY WECHSLER

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