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NOW!

INCORPORATING
FOOD FOR PEACE NEWS

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Many of the world's largest city councils are busy about housing

Compared with great central cities of the world Melbourne surprisingly lacks any direct interest or activity in the housing question. Housing in this part of the world is either a purely private venture or an activity undertaken by the State Government.

In America, Canada, Europe and Asia, however, municipal councils take the greatest interest in housing the population, and particularly in redevelopment schemes which will maintain a solid population near the central heart of the metropolis.

Melbourne so far, has satisfied itself with making by-laws about houses and flats and one excursion into the development of living accommodation for elderly people.

Each succeeding census has shown that the population resident within the city of Melbourne is falling while the population of the inner suburban areas surrounding the city has also shown a continuous decline.

MULTI-STOREY FLATS

In 1952-3 the London County Council spent nearly £14 million on housing, between 15 and 20 per cent of which was a charge against the rate income of the council. The council obtained a little over £2 million from the British government by way of grants-in-aid. The County Council's activity in housing has resulted in huge blocks of multi-storey housing being developed in London as well as outer-suburban schemes designed to cater for population which cannot be fitted into the central areas.

In Toronto the metropolitan council maintains a Housing Authority which shares with the State Government the responsibility of making available cheap loans, or guaranteeing finance to prospective home owners.

● Continued on page 2

Newcastle hospital treats the aged in their own homes

A remarkable medico-social experiment in Newcastle, NSW, is arousing considerable interest in medical circles. The scheme provides hospital-type attention for patients, mostly pensioners, in their own homes.

The new project is under the direction of Dr. R. M. Gibson, Royal Newcastle Hospital staff physician, who told the Sydney "Sun," "We could probably empty one-third of NSW hospital beds by this service."

ON OTHER PAGES—

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- American probe on religious teaching 8
- Town planning research needed for aged 11

The NSW Hospitals Commission gave Newcastle permission to start the scheme late in 1954.

Patients stay at home. They get the attention of their family doctor, but also have access to the hospital's medical experts, almoner service nursing visits, occupational therapy and to a wide range of hospital equipment.

Hospital beds, bed lifting devices, wheelchairs, crutches, mattresses, blankets and so on are provided — even washing machines and housekeepers to clean, wash, iron, shop and cook.

Patients' families, often for long disinterested in the old people, help again once they see someone else lending a hand. Some results have been quite dramatic. Improvements in mental health and outlook have shown how much despondency brings on ills of the aged.

As Dr. Gibson wrote in the "Australian Medical Journal," "The disorientated the vegetative, the depressed, the non co-operative patient becomes a member of a familiar social group and plays his part in family life and in the life of the community."

The Newcastle scheme is costing the hospital an average of £2/1/4 a week per patient. To care for them in hospital would cost £35 a week. The programme now plans budget and diet advice to Newcastle's pensioners.

The significance of the scheme is seen in the fact that 34 per cent of Sydney Hospital patients are pensioners. Most of these people could have been spared a spell in hospital and the hospitals spared badly needed accommodation.



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Big cities spend heavily on flats

● From page 1

Chicago also has a Housing Authority — a district municipal corporation which is eligible to receive state, federal and local funds.

In the three years 1953 to 1955 Cologne spent 26.7 million D. marks on housing schemes. The city maintains a residential building office which handles the usual applications for permits, approval for designs and inspections of finished buildings, and which goes on to deal with finance for building.

The Tokyo metropolitan council spent 7.1 per cent of its total income on housing schemes in 1956, while the city of Osaka spent 5.1 per cent of its income in the same way. The building of municipal dwelling houses is financed by government approved loans.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Manchester's municipal housing committee has been active in the housing field for many years. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government makes available a grant of £16/10/- per annum for sixty years for every house built by the corporation. Manchester City Council has been responsible for large slum clearance schemes and the development of satellite towns — notably Wythenshawe, an area of 5,500 acres across the River Mersey. Last year Manchester spent £1,500,000 on government assisted housing schemes and £95,000 on non-assisted schemes.

Fourteen-storey flats have been developed by the Johannesburg City Council as part of its housing developments.

Housing forms one of the city's twenty-two departments and is supervised by a Director of Housing. Johannesburg's housing department is the largest in South Africa and accounts for an expenditure of nearly £2 million per annum.

Compelling reasons have driven the great city municipal corporations into the housing field. Uppermost has been the presence of badly planned disease- and crime-ridden slum areas providing a standard of housing which has revolted decent citizens.

Compared with Melbourne the slums of overseas cities are more extensive and much more densely populated. In most

NOW! EDITORIAL

COMMONWEALTH SILENT ON PENSIONS PROPOSAL

It seems that there is a pact of silence between Commonwealth political parties on the question of special allowances for pensioners whose needs cannot be met by the flat rate age pension.

The Commonwealth Government has made no comment on its attitude to the proposals since they were first made publicly twelve months ago by Professor R. I. Downing in his booklet "Raising Age Pensions." The Brotherhood of St. Laurence supported these proposals in its pamphlet, "100,000 Depressed Pensioners," which aroused widespread interest throughout Australia but neither the Government, the Australian Labor Party, the Country Party, nor the Democratic Labor Party have indicated their attitude to these proposals.

Do these representatives of the people agree or disagree with common sense proposals for special allowances which would lift the pressing burden of economic hardship from the shoulders of thousands of age pensioners at the cost of a mere £7 million?

No doubt the politicians are considering the political implications of the proposals which would provide immediate relief for some 100,000 specially depressed pensioners and no extra help for the remaining 450,000 pensioners who are not in such great need, but the possibility of alienating some voters would be a secondary consideration.

Australia's 100,000 depressed pensioners and millions of other Australians who are concerned at the plight of some pensioners are entitled to some expression of opinion from their political leaders on this urgent public question.

cases rebuilding inevitably means a reduced population.

By contrast Melbourne's slums—though dilapidated and badly planned are remarkable for their low population density. Rebuilding here can mean a greater density with much more open space light and air.

This is one of the reasons why the Melbourne City Council could well afford to be interested in active slum reclamation and redevelopment. Rebuilt slums would bring customers back near the heart of the city and help support a prosperous rate income.

URBAN SPRAWL

Housing shortage has been a chronic complaint of overseas cities and municipalities have joined in the battle to relieve overcrowding and bad living conditions brought about by this cause.

Melbourne is reported to have a shortage of something like 12,000 houses, but the figure is probably much greater if the unknown factors represented

by doubling up and inactivity due to insufficient basic finance are added.

Almost all new housing — with the exception of some Housing Commission work and a very small amount of private building — is spread around the sprawling outer boundaries of metropolitan Melbourne.

Broad acres, unserviced and fresh from the orchard poultry farm or vegetable growing are becoming the new settlements. The resulting nightmares of long wearying public transport journeys to town, or a peak period battle on the roads soon takes away much of the charm of such areas.

A third reason for local government participation in housing has been the necessity for disentangling industry and housing in inner areas, and the race to provide new and better highways and public transport facilities to the central area. This has meant wholesale demolition and — if population is to be maintained near the city — rebuilding schemes.

Automation could affect mental health says scientist

Dutch study show results with re-education of problem families

Because the imaginative scientist can now create mechanisms capable of carrying out almost any task by the automation process the fear is increasing that an uncontrollable force imperilling society has been created. In the opinion of Dr. David Morse, Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, we are in danger of being destroyed by our own creations.

ROTTERDAM EXPERIMENT OF INTEREST TO SOCIAL WORKERS

Welfare workers all over the world have closely followed a Dutch re-educational scheme organised by the Welfare Department in Rotterdam, in which nine social and socially weak families were taken in hand to see whether they could be rehabilitated to the point where they could manage their own lives.

The families are accommodated in specially designed flats and the work of re-education is carried on by social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, ministers of religion, home helps, dietitians and group workers.

The cultural centre includes kindergartens, health clinic, recreation hall, meeting hall and day nursery. In a report published recently the director of municipal welfare in Rotterdam describes the progress made in the project.

The report begins with usual cautionary note that applies to all projects of this nature.

"The highly complex nature of the problem of social defectiveness, with its many manifestations, renders the fight against it not only laborious and often disappointing, and requires a constant application of new methods, but also induces insiders to speak of the results with the greatest possible reserve.

The more so, as it will never be possible to prove how much grief has been prevented by stemming the process of social disintegration, and how great an amount of expense society at large has saved by rendering timely assistance."

RESULTS OBTAINED

Prolonged experiments have resulted in a better insight into not only the

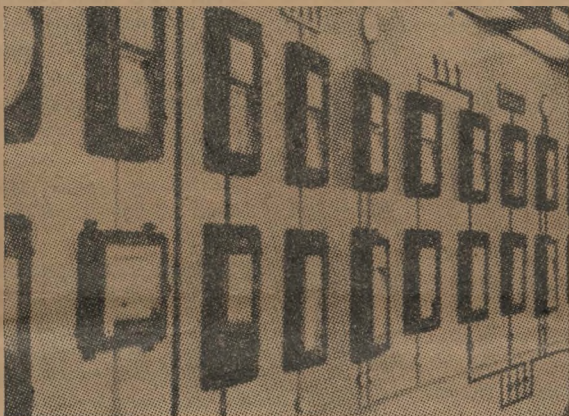
	families in care	improved	unaltered	deteriorated
1950	403	168	212	23
1951	402	86	275	31
1952	407	49	334	24
1953	400	84	266	50
1954	407	100	274	33
1955	384	68	281	35
1956	351	59	275	17

The key to the labour and social impact of automation and other technological innovations is the rate of speed at which they are introduced and at which they spread from one undertaking, industry and area to another and from one part of the world to another, Mr. Morse declares.

Only a few years ago, automation was regarded as a practical problem for the next decade, not this one. Things have happened faster than most qualified observers expected. There is a need, therefore to study what is happening in order to try to anticipate and to meet any problems that may arise in the labour and social field.

Mental health problems are likely to arise from the fear among employees that machines will take away their jobs; from the fact that automation, like all technological innovations, may create problems of re-employment in certain localities or for certain groups of workers; and from the direct and immediate impact that automation may have on wages and working conditions and thus on the central area of labour-management relations.

However, it should not be forgotten that automation, together with atomic energy and related technological developments, have given a great impetus to the achievement of higher labour standards and higher living standards and that they tend to expedite industrial growth and social progress in the less developed areas of the world.



● This control panel with its flickering, coloured lights, is the nerve centre of the automatic system at the furnaces of a Japanese iron works. In many countries similar automatic equipment, requiring only a few specialised workers, is taking over production.

re-educational work but also the degree of improvement manifesting itself in the families.

The following table gives an indication of results in the past few years. The families were judged according to a scale divided into five gradations of social behaviour, ranging from non-re-educable to socially normal.

The picture is encouraging the report states, in particular in regard to the rather great number of families showing gradual improvement from year to year.

The ultimate aim of the project is the re-education of the families to such an extent that they can settle

among other families of a socially normal description.

The after-care of families leaving the centre for another section of the town is of primary importance.

● Continued on page 10

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● WORLD POPULATION GROWS AT 5,000 PER HOUR

Where are we going to put all these people?

In the 200,000 years during which, according to paleontologists, men have inhabited this planet they have grown to number 2,700,000,000.

In just over 30 more years—that is, by the year 1990—United Nations experts estimate there will be another 2,700,000,000 added.

By the end of the century, they say, the world's population may be nearly seven billion. Imagine doubling the world's people in 30 years! And then increasing them by nearly half again in the next ten years!

At this rate, 600 years from now—that is, in a period of time roughly equal to the span we call "modern history"—so many people would inhabit our globe that there would be only one square metre (roughly one square yard) of the earth's surface available for them each to live on.

Such a thing obviously would not be allowed to happen; something would be done to prevent it. Even so, the population growth on our globe promises to be phenomenal. It will provide the 20th century with several of its most challenging problems.

Take food. It is hard to provide enough to eat for the people now on the earth. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that not one person in a hundred will ever in his life have what we would consider a square meal.

If this is the problem today what will it be in the year 2000 when there are nearly three times as many mouths to feed? It is obvious that farmland is going to have to be used more efficiently; land now considered unusable is going to have to be used; and new food sources—for example, the ocean—are going to have to be developed. Only 7 per cent of the world's surface is now considered suitable for farming.

But this in turn will require ideas, not merely in the laboratory but in the home and in the field. Men will have to be willing to abandon old methods which have been handed down to them from their fathers and grandfathers. They will have to be ready to leave worn-out land, however deeply they may have become attached to it, and move to other, better land in different surroundings.

Resettlement and increasing production, in short, require capital investment. So do irrigation, composting, manuring, crop rotation, seed improvement, and

● It is estimated that by the time President Nasser could get his Aswan High Dam built—assuming he started now—the population of Egypt would have grown so much that the wealth the dam would produce, distributed evenly among the fellahin, would leave them no better off than before.

dozens of other methods of increasing the yield from land. Someone must provide this capital—and not very much of it can come from the savings of people who already are having a hard time eking out a livelihood.

Take the problem of power—that is, the problem of harnessing matter and making it work for man. Most of our electric power today comes from coal, oil, or natural gas, burned to produce heat. A very small amount (some 6 per cent) of the power comes from falling water. The rest comes from burning such things as wood and manure.

All of these sources of power, except the falling water, are exhaustible. How soon they will run out, at present rates of consumption, no one is entirely sure. But the point is that present rates of consumption will not remain static—not with the world doubling and redoubling its population.

They would not remain static, even if the population stayed at the same level; you and I are using more and more power every year—some 3 per cent more the statisticians say, which means that every 20-

odd years we double the amount we use.

So with each person using more electric power every year, and the number of people growing by leaps and bounds, the conventional sources of power may be completely run out in altogether too short a time for comfort.

In addition to the problems of food and power, there are hundreds of other implications of the fact that more and more people are living on our globe. Anyone who has been caught on a big-city traffic jam knows what population means in terms of road transportation.

Where are all the automobiles and trucks and buses going to be put? Will new highways and bridges and tunnels be built fast enough and wide enough?

What is going to happen to education when many schools are now on double shifts, when colleges are overflowing, when the supply of competent teachers is so limited that many are trying to handle 40 and more pupils at once? Will governments provide adequate new facilities in time?

What of the poor office-to-home commuter, who—if he is to have a little green grass in front of his house or apartment—must go one, two, or even more hours out into the country to get it at a price he can afford?

● When an underdeveloped country gets started with modernisation and industrialisation, a large population can cease to be a liability and become an asset.

Population growth can be a blessing

How soon will the commuter have helicopters, or high-speed elevated trains, or the individual flying machines, complete with flapping wings, that the Soviet Union says it has built?

When it becomes easier for hundreds of thousands of additional commuters to get into their big-city offices, how big must the cities be to accommodate them? As cities grow upward and outward, and get more crowded, what will happen to spots of beauty, like parks, casual two-storey homes, and national monuments? Must they be sacrificed? Cities which cannot radically improve their transportation facilities — whose underground foundation is such as to bar a subway, for example — must look around earnestly for ways to avoid being choked and suffocated by people.

All this suggests that the advanced, industrialised countries of the world face a formidable challenge. But the problem is by no means limited to the well-to-do peoples of the earth. On the contrary, it is least urgent among these peoples. They have the smallest rate of population growth.

India's population, for example is expected to more than double by the turn of the century; Egypt's to more than triple, while that of the United States will increase only 41 per cent, and that of France, only 24 per cent.

This means that unless some drastic bootstrap-hauling is done, the poorer

peoples of the world are going to become relatively still poorer, and the richer ones richer — with potentially explosive results.

History shows that as a people's standard of living improves, the rate of population growth slows down. Large families cease to be a habit and a necessary source of labor for the fields men no longer feel they must begin with large families because several children may not survive.

The underdeveloped countries of the world cannot afford to wait until they become modern industrialised areas to begin limiting their population growth. Egypt is only one example. All through Asia the story is the same. With only about one-fifth the world's land area, Asia already has more than half the world's population, and it is growing at the fastest rate.

The average amount of cultivated land per person is substantially less than one acre compared with four acres in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Until Asia develops the resources to support its people, it will be folly for it to go on multiplying; but India alone is expected to have one billion people by the year 2000.

When an underdeveloped country gets started with modernisation and industrialisation a large population can cease to be a liability and become an asset. New factories need workers; roads must be

built, towns and villages expanded, frontiers conquered. A growing population was an asset to the United States in its pioneer days.

But the process of economic development must be under way if more population is to help, not hinder. If a country is stagnant, its poverty grows worse as its people multiply.

A number of United Nations agencies is working steadily to help solve the problems raised by population growth. At the core of it all a team of 15 people on the 31st floor of the UN building does nothing else but study and report population trends and try to make intelligent estimates of what will happen in years to come.

The UN population division has had to revise its previous estimates upward — drastically.

The world is increasing its population much faster than even the experts expected as recently as four years ago.

These figures are of immediate interest to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, which is wrestling with ways to increase the world's food supply. They are significant to the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation which is concerned with school needs, among many other things. The figures go to the International Labor Organisation which must watch the world's labor supply and warn of unemployment if necessary. They are of great importance to all the UN's many organisations dealing with economic development.

The whole world will benefit if population growth can be turned from a curse to a blessing. There is no doubt whatsoever that this can be done. Whether it will be done depends on the vision and unselfishness of men. As the number of persons multiplies it is bound to become clearer that a man is indeed his brother's keeper.

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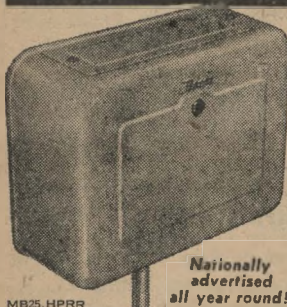
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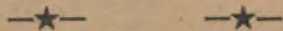
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FOOD FOR PEACE NEWS

Our modern barley loaves and fishes

By FATHER G. K. TUCKER

Everyone knows the story of the lad who offered two barley loaves and three small fishes to feed 5,000 hungry people.

It is generally accepted that this small amount of food was miraculously multiplied so that there was more than sufficient for all. It may well have been, however, that most of those present had their small stores of food and that the unselfish example of the lad prompted them to put all they had into the common store.

Be this the interpretation of the miracle or not, such is the principal on which the Food for Peace Campaign works. We are making our tiny offerings to feed some of the millions of the world who cry in vain for food. We are quite ordinary people with little financial resources, but we do just what we can. We do so with the knowledge that at least some are less hungry than they would have been were it not for our efforts. We do it too with the hope that others may be inspired to do likewise.

If all people of goodwill in Australia were to do just what they could, it would mean that not only would a large number of hungry people be given food, but also that those hungry people would be taken towards that peace which the world must have if civilisation is to be saved.

We do not minimize the valuable work being done to promote peace through the Colombo Plan and other such worthwhile efforts. But to many of us it is rather remote and does not help us to develop much personal understanding of Asia and Asian problems.

To win a war a nation must be geared up for the purpose. The same, we believe, to be true in regard to winning peace, which all so much desire.

The hope of the Food for Peace Campaign is that Australia may play the part of the lad in the story of the loaves and fishes. It would not be difficult to imagine what a tremendous effect such a gesture on our part would make on the world.

It could well mean the taking of a really effective step towards a real and lasting peace.

I would like to emphasise these two points.

One: We can be absolutely assured that we are on the right lines—from a Christian, Economic and International point of view.



Two: That the most worthwhile and lasting causes have begun in a small way and that the faith and perseverance of those concerned are always tested.

In our small way we are making a challenge to Australia. Ours is a tremendous task, but with faith and perseverance it must succeed.

UNDERSTANDING
OF ASIA

Professor McMahon Ball who is Melbourne's Professor of Political Science, said recently that Australia rarely if ever shows understanding of Asian peoples and, on international issues, always sides with London or Washington.

Our record would scarcely prove this to be otherwise. The greater awakening to the role our geographic position places upon us needs to be multiplied many times before we show sufficient understanding of Asia to be able to "speak on our own two feet."

GET TO KNOW
OUR
NEIGHBOURS

Denis Warner, Australian journalist, writing in 'The Herald' two years ago, said the following, which applies equally strongly today.

"More than 1200 million men, women and children inhabit the lands that lie within 24 hours flying time of Darwin. How many are going to look on us as their enemies?"

"We must get to know our neighbours and help them to know us. Asians coming to Australia find us not nearly so white as we are often painted. And Australians once they overcome their fears that every mouthful of Asian food is a step towards hospital, discover that Chinese cooks are the best in the world, that Japanese hotels are cleaner than any they have ever stayed in, that Asian women are more charming and that Asian culture's more fascinating and older than anything they encountered before.

"This business of getting to know each other really pays dividends."

Support Food For Peace Campaign

If more branches of the Campaign were started throughout Australia a great deal more could be achieved. Quite small groups working locally can contribute to the whole.

If you would like information on forming a group please write to the honorary secretary: Miss J. MacKenzie, 279 Poath Road, Hughesdale, Victoria, or to the director: Father G. K. Tucker, O.B.E., Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Carum Downs, Victoria.

FOOD FOR PEACE NEWS

THERE CAN BE NO LASTING PEACE WHILE MILLIONS STARVE

A strikingly informative article appeared in the Melbourne "Age" recently, by Newman Rosenthal, hon. secretary of the Australian-Asian Association.

Claiming that the great awakening among Asia's masses 'happened in our time,' the article puts the reader's thoughts onto the rails of realism.

To Asia, writes Newman Rosenthal, the first world war of 1914 was fundamentally a war between the whites who, during the whole of the 19th century had taken the attitude of a race of mankind superior to everything coloured. This alleged superiority was not limited to better technology and military science. It extended to a moral superiority by virtue of which they would 'bring peace and progress to the peoples of Asia,' and Asia which had always been the stage for unrest and internecine war.

Many Asians had thithered to accepted the West's picture of itself; they envied the European his ability to live in peace with his neighbours. The war shattered all illusions. Its violence and destructiveness were such as Asia had never known. The West lost its halo. It no longer represented for Asia a higher moral order.

Australia's future relationships with the free nations of Asia will be determined more by real evidence of goodwill than by any formal assurances, however impressive. Rightly or wrongly Asian policy towards this country will be decided more by the pressure of the sentiments of ordinary people than by the design of politicians. The things, then, that really matter are the things that men and women understand, the things they feel, the things that have some intimate contact with them and their everyday life.

On that very pattern and plan of 'the things that men and women understand' is the Food for Peace Campaign based.

Men and women — and children — who know the gnawing pangs of hunger, understand them all too well. They understand, too, the international language of goodwill when another country sends from its own store cupboards food to assuage those hunger pains.

The Food for Peace Campaign is so called because a statement was issued to

the world several years ago which said, "There can be no lasting peace while millions starve." The statement came of the conference of the Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Echoing through the press of the world it caught the attention and concern of an Australian, Father G. K. Tucker. It was the challenge of those words which caused him to found the FFP Campaign.

The statement is certainly no less challenging today. To anybody who thinks about it it is patently evident that Australia is a well-fed neighbour in a geographically ill-fed corner of the world.

We either ignore the challenge to act as any decent neighbour would and offer to share some of our own food with them OR we take up the challenge.

WHAT FFPC DOES

By dint of voluntary contributions from interested friends the Campaign regularly sends money to a Field Liaison representative in India (through the Society of Friends) who in turn passes it to help feed the under-nourished villagers of a small settlement in the Himalayan foothills of Nepal. A close link is forged by regular correspondence so that we know to what use the money has been put.

Indonesian visitor at Hawthorn

Mrs. A. Zainu'ddin, an Australian whose husband lives in Sumatra, proved a highly interesting guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Hawthorn branch of the Food for Peace Campaign.

Little sidelights on domesticity in Indonesia were of intense interest to the womenfolk of the group. The type of food household equipment and dress. Mrs. Zainu'ddin even gave a one-woman mannequin parade from the national costumes she brought with her.

THESE ARE THE MODERN KILLERS

Heart disease and cancer are not only the largest causes of death in the majority of highly developed countries, but they are on the increase.

In England and Wales, for example, deaths due to cancer in 1947 accounted for 15.1 per cent of all deaths. By 1955 the percentage had risen to 17.6. In Denmark the increase was from 16.2 in 1947 to 21.8 in 1955, and in the United States from 4.7 to 15.7.

In most of the highly developed countries deaths from cancer of the respiratory system represent a growing percentage of all deaths due to cancers.

Also deaths from degenerative diseases of the heart and arteries (the most frequent cause of death in North America and most of Europe) are increasing.

Among the possible causes is the ageing of the population and consequent swelling in the 40-80 age-group in which these diseases are most prevalent. Also, diagnostic techniques have improved, decreasing the number of deaths formerly attributed to "senility" or to "unknown causes."

● Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is killing relatively fewer people each year. For example, between 1950 and 1955 death rates per 100,000 population dropped from 58.1 to 31.1 in France; from 13.8 to 6.3 in Denmark; and from 143.6 to 63.0 in Portugal.

Nevertheless, tuberculosis is still the greatest killer of all infectious and parasitic diseases, and in North America, Europe and Australia it accounts for three-fourths of all deaths from these diseases occurring after the age of 15.

A considerable change in the age distribution of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system has taken place: before World War II the majority of victims were women between 20 and 30 years of age and men between 40 and 55. Now, deaths are most numerous among people over 60, women and men alike.



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With senior citizens it's activity that makes the difference

By WALTER W. CUNNINGHAM

By way of contrast, in another part of the building, women were happily engaged in small groups, knitting, sewing, and designing articles for wear. It was a cheerful prospect. They were accomplishing something. The glow on their faces was unmistakable. It stemmed from the fact that they had something to do.

One, whose dancing days must have gone back two generations, suddenly surprised the visitors by leaping to her feet, in sheer exhilaration, and performing a few steps to the accompaniment of a home-made tambourine. The others looked on, amused.

The lesson in this was obvious. Activity makes a difference.

MAJORITY ACTIVE

Merely a fraction of retired people go into such homes. The great majority continued in their regular jobs. Often they adopt a Spartan economy, forever turning off the switch behind the improvident member of the family. They seek means to save. Otherwise, they "find nothing to do," and resent it.

Social security, a blessing to millions, gives them something to go on. Yet in

In the course of my work as a writer I once had occasion to visit a "home for ageing people." As I entered one wing of the building I saw men and women sitting around singly and in twos and threes, listless, and apparently lost for something to do.

They had tired of TV, tired of reading books, tired of wandering around the building.

They had no complaint on the score of food or lodging. But they had no occupation. In imagination, one could almost see scribbled across the wall the words: "Everything for the people, nothing by them."

its present form it is only a partial answer to retirement. Something is needed beyond that.

Samuel Smiles, whose study of people and biographies inspired countless thousands in his day, had this to say:

"The solid foundations of liberty must rest upon individual character; which is also the only sure guarantee for social security and national progress."

Of the great army of retired people only a comparatively small portion continues the activeness which has long been a dominant feature of American character. Their experiences may briefly be epitomized:

① An engineer in Lynn, Mass., opens a guest house in Hampton and delights in his new occupation of building and renovating

while his wife smooths out the course of the stream of visitors, who exchange bills for the joys of the seaside.

② A Long Island banker puts power tools in his basement, and embarks on a workshop career, fixing clocks and mending furniture.

③ An employee of a gas company spends his time in a boat with an outboard motor, catching crabs in a Georgian river.

④ A retired professor of acoustics utilizes the golden hours in putting into ordinary violins the qualities, it is claimed, of a Stradivarius.

⑤ One man of culture has gone into antiques, and finds the hunt for mahogany of the Chippendale, Hepplewhite, and Sheraton eras an engaging occupation.

⑥ A retired accountant helps with income-tax papers, while a colleague keeps books for a small manufacturing concern.

⑦ A retired financial editor whose wife is an excellent cook, makes a complete turnabout, and sets up a small catering business with his wife doing the cooking, while he handles the business end. "Of course," he said to a friend recently, his eyes flashing enterprisingly, "we don't like to take on more than three parties a week!"

WRITING CONSIDERED

What of the people who turn to writing?

In writing you don't need much to start up business—a fountain pen, a pad of paper, and a typewriter to meet modern demands—provided you "discern the infinite suggestiveness

of common things," and have the ability to put this across to the reader, just as the actor must bridge the gap between stage and audience. Writing keeps one employed and does not break in too much upon freedom, the precious asset of retirement.

People today argue fiercely about retirement. One insists it should be handled this way, another that. As economic conditions improve, it is coming more and more into the picture, since an increasing number of people are coming into the category. What to do about this segment of the population?

POOL OF PRODUCTION

Millions of hours of labour are lost every year through the relegating of the ageing to the inactive list. Economists agree that denial of opportunity to make a contribution is a short-sighted policy.

If the services of retired men and women who want to work were utilized in the common pool of production, the prosperity of the country would benefit. Yet the old rule persists.

—Christian Science Monitor

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AMERICAN TEACHING COLLEGES PROBE PROBLEM OF RELIGIOUS TEACHING

On a number of college campuses throughout the United States there is a vigorous self-appraisal. Colleges training teachers for American public schools are asking themselves openly and candidly if religion is being handled properly in their secular education.

The great majority of the interest is in teaching about religion and is opposed to indoctrination of any kind.

Spurred on by the Teacher Education and Religion Project of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, this inquiry is reaching far into the campus life of students and faculty members.

Already, in its first three years, the project has accomplished a certain basic minimum: The emphasis has made thousands of teachers and teachers-to-be more aware of their responsibility as defined by the AACTE committee: "The primary aim... is to deal directly and objectively with religion whenever and wherever it is intrinsic to learning experiences in the various fields of study."

But the extent of the project is much more far-reaching, as indicated in the recent report of Dr. Harold E. Bernhard, chairman of the Iowa State Teachers College committee of the Teacher Education and Religion Project.

This committee used a conference of some 70 public-school teachers and administrators as a sounding board on the theme "Problems of the Teacher in Dealing with Religion in the Public School."

An important question was asked: "Do you feel your college training provided you with necessary information to deal with religion whenever and wherever it appears in the life of the public school?"

Other questions were put to the conferees:

● "Do you think the historic principle of the separ-

ation of church and state prompts the teaching about religion in the public schools?"

● "To what extent do factors in the community aid or handicap the public school in teaching about religion?"

● "What is the educational value of religious activities in the public school, such as prayer and the use of hymns?"

From the discussion, Dr. Bernhard details these findings:

"Out of this discussion one common and significant problem became quite apparent. There is considerable difficulty in differentiating between 'teaching about' and 'indoctrination' in matters involving religion.

"And there is no doubt that here the function of the public school in dealing with religion is in definite need of clarification for teachers and administrators. Far too much interest is being shown in the hope of advancing religion rather than in the hope of improving education.

"Too frequently the interest in 'religion in education' served merely as a vehicle for religious propaganda. Further, there was evidence of considerable need to encourage confidence in the teacher who knows the subject well that he need not fear dealing with problems of a religious nature.

"In the course of the discussion, the few teachers who felt they had an ade-

quate background of information concerning religion expressed more self-confidence and more success in the classroom than the numerous teachers who apparently were lacking such a background.

"Finally, there was also some evidence that we need to make clear to teachers the difference between 'fact' and 'fancy' about community opposition to teaching about religion."

Iowa State Teachers College is also launching a field project to test the assumptions of the teacher-education and religion project: that topics with religious content, such as those that might be found in the study of history, or art, or literature, or any other academic area, are generally taught poorly because teachers either (1) purposely ignore or evade such topics, or (2) are too ignorant of the facts of religion to teach about them adequately.

The college is releasing one of its sociology professors to give full time to the carrying on of this field project. Besides testing the foregoing assumptions, he will also identify the specific situations in the public-school classrooms in which topics with some religious content cause problems.

When he finishes, he should possess weighty evidence relating to the following questions:

● What do teachers say about the propriety of teaching topics with religious content?

● What do teachers say about the situations in which the teaching of religious materials seem to be a problem?

● What do teachers say about their own handling of religious topics in their own classes?

● What do teachers say about their understanding of the school and community attitudes toward teaching religious topics in their classes?

● How do teachers explain their own behaviour in the way they handle religious

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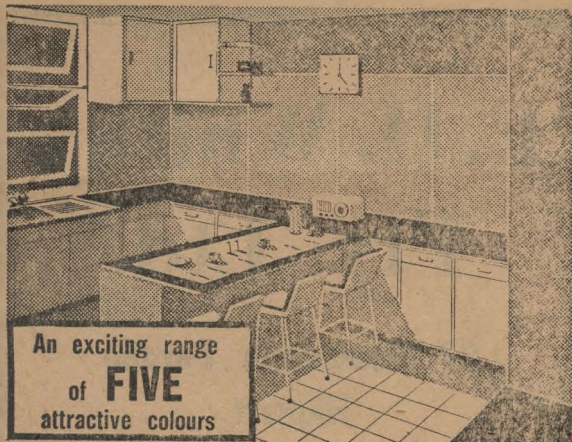
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ENGLISH SURVEY HAS LESSONS FOR OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reiterating the oft-heard cry that the housing problem cannot be solved by bricks and mortar alone, a new book, 'Family and Kinship in East London,' by Michael Young and Peter Wilmott, goes on to analyse some of the elements that make up "community spirit" and shows how easy it is to demolish this spirit and difficult to retore it in new communities.

The enquiry covers some aspects of life in Bethnal Green on East London suburb, and in Greenleigh, a new housing estate in which many former Bethnal Green residents have been rehoused under the London County Council's reclamation programmes.

The first part of the book explores kinship patterns and shows that in Bethnal Green, at least, there is little evidence to support the popular view that the family is not so significant as a unit of society. In Bethnal Green the three generation family links are still strong.

This family structure supports the care of dependents at both ends of life—of the young people and the old—but it depends on the grandparents, the married children and their children living in the same locality. The three generation family has an economic as well as companionable value. Jobs and houses as well as baby-sitting and home help in time of sickness are often provided through the family pool of contacts.

Relatives are also a vital means of connecting people with their community and the authors record that Bethnal Greeners are not lonely people. Whenever they go for a walk in the street, for a drink in the pub or for a row on the lake in Victoria Park, they know the faces in the crowd. This, in many cases, more than compensates for the overcrowding and sub-standard housing that exists in many parts of the district.

● From page 9
topics in their own classes?

● How much do these teachers know about the religious beliefs and practices of the people in the United States?

● What characteristics of the communities in which these teachers work are associated with different ways of handling religious topics?

● What characteristics of these teachers are associated with different ways of handling religious topics in their classes?

The second part of the study is concerned with the Bethnal Greeners who have moved to the new estate of Greenleigh where people's relatives are no longer their neighbours, sharing the intimacies of daily life. Their new neighbours are strangers and they are treated with reserve. In point of services, neighbours do not make up for kin.

Contacts with relatives were fewer. There were no relatives to help in time of illness or with minding children. The lack of recreational facilities was reflected in the fact that almost twice as many ex-Bethnal Greeners in the new estate bought television as compared with those who remained behind. Rents are higher and fares considerably higher. New furniture had to be bought for the new and larger homes.

Most men reduced their drinking and smoking to meet the new financial demands.

DUTCH WORK WITH FAMILIES

● From page 3

This poses great administrative problems as the families are spread over the whole city.

A survey was recently carried out to determine to what extent the families had been able to maintain themselves from a social point of view.

The survey covered work, care of the family, budgeting, recreation, spiritual adjustment, hygiene, school attendance, family life and covered 115 families of which 61 had been living at Zuidplein.

The following table covers the 61 ex-Zuidplein families. 'Positive' means that standards generally accepted for normal families have been achieved.

'Moderate' means that

mands.

In the concluding chapter the authors express their opinion that people should have as much choice of residence as possible and that the majority of East-enders want to stay in the East End.

The problems of rehousing families adequately in the older areas is as the authors admit, a formidable one but 'if the purpose of re-housing is to meet human needs, not as they are judged by others, but as people themselves, it is doubtful whether anything short of such a programme will suffice.'

'Not everyone could hope to stay where they are but re-shuffling residents could be accomplished by moving as a block the social groups above all the wider families to which people wish to belong. Transferring these groups would enable the city to be rebuilt without squandering the fruits of social cohesion.

normal requirements are not completely met but some progress has been made.

'Negative' means that not even the minimum requirements are met.

The report also shows that there was practically no difference between the 61 formerly 'problem' families and the 54 'normal' families who were living close to 'problem' families were not detrimentally affected by their neighbours.

The follow-up survey showed that some 18 families needed some further help or after-care to a certain extent but the great majority of the families who moved out of the Zuidplein have succeeded in adjusting themselves to their new communities.

Positive Moderate Negative

Willingness to work	53	3	1
Budgeting	47	8	5
General, cultural interests	29	30	2
Family Life	48	8	5
Care of home	50	9	1
Adjustment to community	44	14	3

Special town planning research needed for aged

The whole concept of building and planning for the aged needs revision according to Miss A. Royalt-Kish who, following a tour of nine European countries recently, told English town planners that planning must keep up to date with sociological, medical and economic changes.

TOWN PLANNING FEATURES

TOWN PLANNING MEDAL AWARDED

The sixth award of the Town and Country Planning Association James Barrett Memorial Medal for notable contribution to Town Planning was made early this month to Mr. F. C. Cook, chairman of the Town and Country Planning Board of Victoria.

The award medal was presented by the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. Sir Thomas Maltby, MLA, at a joint meeting of planning organisations.

SYDNEY'S NEW UNDERGROUND CAR PARK

The first section of Sydney's new underground car park beneath the Domain has been opened and is parking 350 cars.

When finished, at a cost of £14 million the car park will house 1,400 cars.

Feature of the completed park will be a horizontal escalator which will connect the car park with the city. The escalator will be 700 feet long in a 3'4" tunnel and will be Australia's longest underground pedestrian footway.

During her tour Miss Kish inspected cottages, maisonettes and flats for active old people, similar accommodation with ancillary services for less active groups, hostels and homes for the physically and mentally frail and nursing homes and hospitals for the long term sick.

In each country Miss Kish found that the standard of housing for the aged was below the standard of medical work, below the standard of housing for the general population and seriously lacking in modern town planning standards.

This is a disgraceful situation and also a very sad one, says Miss Kish. It causes unhappiness and discomfort for the aged; an undue strain and burden on

● Continued on page 12

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Some aged are worse off than pensioners

Due to inflationary pressures some old people who made preparation for their old age by acquiring property are now worse off than the 100,000 depressed pensioners mentioned in the Brotherhood of St. Laurence pamphlet, said Mr. Eric Costa, MHR, in Parliament recently.

"They own perhaps a shop and under present conditions are receiving only £3 or £4 a week in rent. The limit of property in the means test is £1,750 for a single person and £3,500 for a married couple. If the value of the property exceeds this amount they do not receive the pension.

Mr. Costa urged the Government to raise the property qualification. He also supported the recommendations in the Brotherhood's pamphlet and stated that the Minister for Social Services should do something to remedy the position.

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Town Planning for the Aged

● From page 11

the medical and health services; and it is also a grave waste of the money that you and I pay, through taxation, out of our own pockets. You may not have thought of this aspect of the case before.

In country after country I have seen buildings and dwellings for the aged sited on damp sites; on exposed sites on top of hills; isolated from shops and public transport; on dangerous road crossings; near noisy factories and aerodromes.

In country after country I have seen buildings without adequate insulation against noise or heat loss; doorways too narrow for invalids' chairs; staircases which are too steep for the aged; stair treads which are too narrow for the aged.

In country after country I have seen dwellings too large for old people to clean; dwellings too far away from other buildings; dwellings which face graveyards; gardens which are unsuitable for use; balconies which are too draughty for use.

In country after country I have seen baths which are set too high, wash basins and W.C.s which are set too low; windows which are set too high to see through from a bed or a chair; cupboards which are set too low for use; door handles or key locks which are difficult to use; electrical fittings which are difficult to reach and dangerous to use. Again I have usually found lack of proper considerations given to such elementary items as

materials decorations, furnishings or furniture specially for use by the physically or mentally infirm old person, with the result that they are mostly dangerous to use, difficult to clean, depressing to live with, and really rather a waste of any money spent in providing them. In country after country members of the medical, social welfare and nursing professions complain to me about the low standards of housing and town planning for the aged.

Architectural and town planning teams design and site all types of accommodation for all types of the aged, to the best of their ability.

But because they have no particular knowledge of old people their standard of work for them is low.

There is thus an urgent need for research in each country on the "suitability of accommodation" for each type or category of the aged and it must be fluid and constantly progressive. The ecological approach is needed so that demarcation can be made between: educational groups urban and rural groups; regional groups; national groups (despite there being certain factors common to each group).

The medical profession has great opportunity for co-operating with physical planners both in research work and in field work. Without such co-operation, standards will never rise; due to lack of pooled technical knowledge between the two professional groups.

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