A SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY

WITH ANNOTATIONS

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Thought for the Day

A subtle exit from the grimy problems of the day is to immerse yourself so deeply in a specialized professional field that the larger community ceases to exist. This is a particularly good way out because the rewards of professional specialization are very great today, so you may become rich and famous while you are ignoring the nation's problems. —JOHN W. GARDNER, in his book No Easy Victories.

Methadone treatment programs will care for many more heroin addicts in the coming years, but are in danger of becoming instruments of a political bureaucracy. Health workers must lead in helping methadone programs to grow in medical settings. Expanded methadone maintenance is neither a panacea nor a final answer, but it is an obvious next move.


Before desegregation in 1963, all blacks were admitted to one psychiatric facility in Maryland. Following desegregation, admission rates rose for whites and even more for blacks. Desegregation reduced the distance to the mental hospital in one geographic area for whites and in a much wider area of the state for blacks.

Gorwitz, K.* (Center for Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Public Health, Lan-

NOTE: An asterisk indicates that copies may be available from the author of the paper at the address given.

sing 48914), and Warthen, F. J. Effects of Desegregation of a State Hospital System on Rates of Treated Mental Illnesses. HSMHA Health Rep. 86:34-45 (Jan.), 1971.

This report reviews the characteristics of national health planning systems, and suggests how best to train personnel for these activities.


Many groups have conceded to the federal government a broader role in the financing of health care, especially in the purchase of health-care insurance for the poor. Opinions diverge, however, about whether major changes in the financing of health care may also improve its delivery. Complex proposals to accomplish this aim give the appearance of panaceas that are not likely to succeed. We must better understand how we can realistically improve the health services. Financing is an important force for change, but is not wholly sufficient for that purpose.


A program for family-oriented primary-care centers is being developed in Massachusetts. The system is being designed so that it can be evaluated effectively and replicated in any major city.

Legislation which defines the functions, activities, and limits of practice for physician associates is highly desirable. Such legislation will allow the new health professionals maximum potential in their new positions while effectively controlling their practice. The Colorado Child Health Associate Law gives the necessary protection to paramedical personnel, the health profession in which they will practice, and the public.


Five years of experience with 16 physician assistants are given a reasonably favorable report.


Among residents of Framingham under 65 years, two-thirds of deaths from coronary heart disease occurred outside hospital. One-half of all those dying suddenly had no prior clinical heart disease. The only way to reduce substantially premature death from coronary heart disease is through primary prevention.


The author believes that a nationwide nutritional program to lower serum lipids would likely reduce morbidity and mortality from atherosclerosis. In addition, patients with hyperlipoproteinemia need individually prepared, type-specific diets.


This report covers some food additives about which there has been widespread concern. It does not establish an acceptable daily intake for cyclamates because of the possible risks involved in their use. Monosodium glutamate, the committee agrees, should not be used in baby foods.


Air pollution has been a problem for centuries. In ancient times, Roman citizens complained about smoke from dwellings. Three centuries ago this nuisance was the subject of a pamphlet addressed to King Charles II of England. Now it has become a major problem in many countries. Concentrations of pollutants must be not only below the threshold of smell but below the threshold at which reflex reactions occur that may change the condition of the cerebral cortex.


Of cases of rheumatic fever seen in one medical center during ten years, relatively more were girls and were blacks. Poor socioeconomic conditions seemed to raise both frequency and severity of the disease.


Of women attending three prenatal clinics in Jerusalem, those with lower hemoglobin levels more often had significant bacteriuria. Age, parity, and socioeconomic status did not seem to cause this association.

Abrahamson, J. H.* (Department of Social Medicine, Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, P.O. Box 1172, Jerusalem, Israel).

By focusing on postperinatal infant deaths, we eliminate the problem of different definitions for stillborn and live-born infants. Moreover, environmental factors and the quality of care strongly influence postperinatal death rates. During 1956-1966, these rates have improved dramatically in some countries; a large proportional fall occurred even in countries with low rates. In this group the position of the USA has become much worse.


This report is concerned mainly with the epidemiology of spontaneous and induced abortion and the resulting morbidity and mortality. Many recommendations are made for future research.


Divorce rates rose in most states between 1963 and 1967. States with a high median duration of marriage at decree tend to have low divorce rates. Divorced persons tended to have higher death rates and higher marriage rates than those in other marital classes.


During 1966-1967 about 22 million persons living outside institutions were limited in their activities, while six million had limited mobility. Based on health interview data, this report analyzes the prevalence of the conditions reported as causing these limitations.

WILDER, C. S. Chronic Conditions and Limitations of Activity and Mobility. Vital and Health Statistics, Ser. 10, No. 61, Health Services and Mental Health Administration (Jan.), 1971.

This report details the procedures used to update a comprehensive file of inpatient health facilities. Biennial mail surveys are conducted of hospitals, nursing care and related homes, and selected custodial and correctional institutions.


**Thought on Parting**

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who striveth valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.—THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 1858-1919

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