

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that with the completion of the primary objective of the department of vital statistics of the U. S. Bureau of the Census, namely, the extension of birth and registration areas which has been its concern for about thirty-five years, a reorganization is now under way to undertake new tasks. In 1933, on the completion of this work with the admission of Texas, the joint advisory committee of the director of the census took steps to explore the various questions and problems involved.

A report of this study points out that "while it is still necessary to work for more complete and accurate recording of the facts as to births and deaths, new and intensive efforts can be devoted now to analytical treatment of the data and to the presentation of more refined results. A better statistical basis for public health work will be laid, and for all studies of population structure and changes."

The appointment of new supervisory personnel in charge of each of three important types of functions within the division is announced, following the recommendations contained in the report. Dr. Halbert L. Dunn, formerly director of the University of Minnesota Hospitals and professor of biometry, University of Minnesota Graduate School of Medicine, Minneapolis, has been placed in charge of the division as chief statistician. He will also have charge of research and analytic developments which are also included in the report's recommendations. Dr. John Collinson, Jr., recently registrar of vital statistics for the state of Maryland and secretary, American Association of State Registration Executives, as assistant chief statistician, will be in immediate charge of the development and perfection of registration and of relations with state health officers and registration officials. A technical assistant to the chief statistician will be appointed to have immediate charge of the classification and coding of causes of death, the development of the joint manual, representation of the division respecting changes in the International List, and relations with medical schools and the medical profession. Forrest E. Linder, Ph.D., who resigned from a position with the Worcester (Mass.) State Hospital, will assist in the development of the program. Six field agents will be appointed, and the districting of the United States for this purpose is proposed. Dr. Timothy F. Murphy, the present chief statistician, has been appointed to take charge of a newly established division of religious statistics, general information and records.

THE UNITED ENGINEERING TRUSTEES

GEORGE L. KNIGHT, vice-president in charge of mechanical operations of the Brooklyn Edison Company, has been elected president of United Engineering Trustees, Inc., joint agency of the four Founder Engineering Societies. Mr. Knight succeeds Harold V. Coes, manager of the industrial department of Ford, Bacon and Davis, New York.

United Engineering Trustees, founded in 1904, administers properties valued at \$4,000,000, consisting of the Engineering Societies Building, Engineering Societies Library, and endowment funds which the corporation holds jointly for the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

H. G. Moulton, consulting engineer of 20 Pine Street, and Otis E. Hovey, consulting engineer of 71 Broadway, were named vice-presidents. Albert Roberts, of the Minerals Separation North American Corporation, New York, will serve as treasurer. John Arms, general manager of United Engineering Trustees, continues as secretary. The following trustees were chosen: H. P. Charlesworth, assistant chief engineer, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Mr. Coes; John P. Hogan, Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff and Douglas, New York; J. P. H. Perry, vice-president, Turner Construction Company, New York; A. L. J. Queneau, U. S. Steel Corporation, New York; Walter Rautenstrauch, professor of industrial engineering, Columbia University; D. Robert Yarnall, Yarnall-Waring Company, Chestnut Hill, Pa.; H. R. Woodrow, vice-president, Brooklyn Edison Company.

Mr. Knight, mechanical engineer, has been connected with the Brooklyn Edison Company since 1905, and a vice-president since 1932. From 1902 to 1905 he was with the New York Edison Company. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, of which he was vice-president from 1926 to 1928, and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He was a member of the board of United Engineering Trustees from 1926 to 1932, and has been vice-president and chairman of the finance committee during the past two years. He was a director of the Engineering Foundation from 1927 to 1932.

The United Engineering Trustees exists by charter "to advance the engineering arts and sciences in all their branches, to further research in science and engineering, to maintain a free public engineering library, and to advance in any other manner the profession of engineering and the good of mankind." Through the Engineering Foundation, the Library Board, and the