

Report Boosts Matrimony: The Married Live Longer

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — Both serious and humorous critics of the "institution of marriage" were given pause when United Nations statisticians disclosed that in all parts of the world, married men and women live longer.

While the experts were somewhat at a loss to give a concrete explanation of this phenomenon, they did offer the suggestion that "married people have a reciprocal concern about each other's well being and a sense of responsibility about preserving one's own health."

In reporting that the world's married men and women have lower death rates than the single, the widowed or the divorced, the study said there was, perhaps, a tendency for divorced persons to have a lower death rate than the widowed.

Girl Babies Live Longest

The world survey showed that in 25 countries the average girl baby can be expected to live for more than 70 years. However,

only five countries give boy babies the same chance.

Iceland had the most favorable record in infant mortality—a low 13.3 deaths for each 1,000 babies born. The United States was in 29th place with a record of 25.2 deaths reported in 1961 for each 1,000 babies born.

Along the line of longevity, it was reported that in most countries women not only live longer than males, but they also have a lower death rate. The male death rate, the survey showed was 36 per cent higher than the female in the U. S. It was stated that the more favorable showing of women could be attributed to a greater capacity to with-

stand physical and emotional stress.

Turning to the continued population explosion, the UN study found that the highest rate of increase in population was in the regions of Central America and Southwest Asia, and the lowest recorded in Northern and Western Europe.

An estimated annual rate of 2.7 per cent was reported in Central America, while in Southwest Asia the rate of 2.6 was noted. By sharp contrast, the Northern and Western European increase was only 0.7 per cent.

The overall world total of 3,000,000,000 was reached by the middle of last year the statisticians said. The estimated rate of increase averaging 55,000,000 yearly would place the population total by the middle of this year at 3,115,000,000, they reported.