



IN THIS ISSUE

FOR the past several years the Committee on the Study of Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility has been carrying out a cooperative study in its indicated field of interest. This study is sponsored by the Milbank Memorial Fund with grants from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Committee is working under the chairmanship of Dr. Lowell J. Reed, and the field work, carried out in Indianapolis under the direction of Professor P. K. Whelpton, has been completed. Two types of field work were involved. First a rapid "household survey" was made in which virtually all white households in Indianapolis were visited in order to locate couples that would qualify for inclusion in a later intensive study. The wide variety of data collected in the intensive study are now being analyzed. In this issue, however, P. K. Whelpton and Clyde V. Kiser present an article based upon the preliminary household survey data, "Differential Fertility Among 41,498 Native-White Couples in Indianapolis." Fertility rates are analyzed by religion of the couple, and for the numerically important religious groups the analysis is extended to further subdivisions by rental value of the home and by educational attainment and birth region of the couple. This article is the first of a contemplated series of reports that will bear the general title Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility.



The question of whether or not a war is accompanied by an increase in the masculinity ratio at birth is an old one, but it again commands renewed interest. The results from some of the past studies of this intriguing question are reviewed in Professor Constantine Panunzio's article "Are More Males Born in Wartime?" He finds some lack of agreement regarding the reality of the increase and a wide variety of interpretations by students who accepted the existence of the phenomenon. The author himself concludes that "the most that can be said is that there

seems to be some evidence that war does increase the ratio of males at birth. The data, however, fairly substantial though they are, are not sufficiently comprehensive to permit broad conclusions.”



The expectation of life at birth can be regarded as influenced more or less by existing age-specific death rates for each and every cause of death. Public health literature contains instances of attempts to measure the influence of one specific cause of death on expectation of life at a given time or for a series of years. In an article “Maternal Mortality and Length of Life,” Mr. Alexander Stevenson utilizes Swedish data for an analysis of the effect of changing incidence of maternal mortality on the life expectancy of females at birth. He attempts to show separately the bearing of declining fertility rates on life expectancy of females. On the basis of rural-urban comparisons he discusses the possible bearing of abortions on maternal mortality and life expectancy.