



IN THIS ISSUE

THE growing political importance of the Middle East has stimulated much interest in that area and in the conditions of life of its people. The January, 1949 issue of the *Quarterly* contained an article on population and wealth in Egypt, by Mr. Charles Issawi, a citizen of that country. In the present issue, Mr. Issawi and Mr. Carlos Dabezies present a paper, "Population Movements and Population Pressure in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria." With a method which utilizes the concept of the "lot viable," the authors estimate the extent of population pressure in the three countries by relating the agricultural population to the agricultural resources. Both authors are affiliated with the United Nations' Division of Economic Stability and Development.

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A meaningful presentation of cases of chronic disease observed in a longitudinal study which extends beyond a twelve-month period requires a type of analysis which is different from that employed in past studies of morbidity.

The paper "Method of Statistical Analysis of Chronic Disease in a Longitudinal Study of Illness" by Jean Downes, presents a detailed description of the method of statistical treatment of data of chronic disease reported in the study of illness in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore. This paper will be of interest to those working in the field of morbidity studies since many now being initiated will be carried on over a period of years.

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Several studies in respiratory illness have shown that young

children have an incidence of illness considerably higher than do older children.

The article "The Risk of Attack of Respiratory Illness Among Parents of Children of Various Ages," by Jane E. Coulter and Doris Tucher, presents the results of an analysis designed to learn whether parents in family units with young children have a greater risk of illness from respiratory diseases than do those in families with no very young children.

It was found that the young children who have a high incidence of acute respiratory illness seem to present a greater risk of illness to their parents than do the older children.



Although preferences as to sex of offspring may be a topic of perennial discussion among prospective parents, few objective studies of such preferences have been made. There have been even fewer studies of the relation of parental preferences as to sex of children to size of family. In this issue Jeanne E. Clare and Clyde V. Kiser present an article "Preferences for Children of Given Sex in Relation to Fertility." This is the fourteenth of a series of reports based upon the Indianapolis Study and appearing in the *Quarterly* under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."