



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE paper "Characteristics of Diabetics as Revealed in a General Morbidity Study" by Katherine Simon presents an analysis based upon cases reported in the morbidity study in a sample population of the Eastern Health District of Baltimore.

The position of the diabetic in the household, the year and age at first diagnosis of the condition, and the first signs of illness are shown for this study. Persons with diabetes were also classified according to the degree of severity of their condition and the amount of medical care they utilized. Data are presented which reveal that males had a greater risk of disability from diabetes than did females.



In the article "The Changing Focus of Differential Fertility Research: The Social Mobility Hypothesis" by Charles F. Westoff, the past history of research in this field is reviewed and classified according to its objectives and results. The trend of this research is observed to be moving away from the descriptive stages and to be oriented increasingly toward the investigation of "causes." Particular attention is devoted both to the theoretical considerations and the fragmentary, empirical evidence which would justify the inclusion of the broad subject of social mobility in future intensive studies of the causes of fertility differences. Social mobility, viewed in both its objective and subjective dimensions, is hypothesized to be not only an important factor influencing individual decisions to limit the size of family, but also a cause of social class differentials in fertility, on the assumption that mobility and opportunities for

mobility are found in different degrees throughout the American class structure.



The paper contributed by Jerzy Berent on the "Relationship Between Family Sizes of Two Successive Generations" is addressed to the question of the effect on fertility of the parents' respective family sizes. In other words, does family size tend to run through generations? Statistical analysis of a sample of English marriages reveals a positive and consistent, though relatively small, relationship between the two generations' patterns of family size. The introduction of occupational stratification as a control factor indicates that the relationships found are independent of social class. A distinction is also made between those couples who practiced birth control and those who did not. The results seem to lead to the conclusion that human fertility is both genetically and culturally inheritable.



One of the hypotheses included for testing in the Indianapolis Study was: "The greater the extent to which interest in children is a matter of personal satisfaction, the higher the proportion of couples practicing contraception effectively and the smaller the planned families." The analysis of the data on this hypothesis is presented in this issue in the article "The Interrelation of Fertility, Fertility Planning, and Ego-Centered Interest in Children," by Marianne DeGraff Swain and Clyde V. Kiser. This is the eighteenth of a series of reports appearing under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."