

IN THIS ISSUE

THE paper "Tonsillectomy and Respiratory Illness in the Populations of Two Communities in New York State" by Jane Coulter Mertz, presents data on the respiratory illness experience of two groups of persons—those with tonsils present and those with tonsils removed—who were observed for three school years, September, 1946 to June, 1949.

The frequency of tonsillectomy is shown by the occupational class of the head of the household and by the age and sex of the persons under observation.

The group with tonsils present and the group with tonsils removed were similar with respect to the frequency and severity of attacks of acute respiratory illness.

• • •

Tonsillectomy is now one of the most frequent operative procedures employed in medicine. The article "Changes in the Risk of Tonsillectomy Over the Period 1880-1949" by Jean Downes, describes the increase in popularity of tonsillectomy over a period of sixty-nine years.

The population included in this report consists of the members of the families in Pleasantville and Mt. Kisco, New York, who participated in a study of acute respiratory illness made in those two communities.

The risk of tonsillectomy is shown for three periods of time: (1) for persons born before 1910; (2) for persons born during the period 1910-1920; and (3) for those born in the years 1930-1948. The data presented indicate clearly a marked increase in the frequency of tonsillectomy after 1910.

• • •

The paper "Characteristics of Psychoneurotic Patients and

Their Families as Revealed in a General Morbidity Study," by Jean Downes and Katherine Simon, presents a description of psychoneurotic patients and their families living in the Eastern Health District of Baltimore. Ninety families in which there was a case of psychoneurosis were compared with a total of 828 families in which one or more family members had some form of chronic disease.

While there was little difference between the two groups of families with respect to social environmental factors, they were found to differ significantly in their illness experience.



Differences among states in rejection rates for selective service registrants are found to be correlated positively with mortality and negatively with per capita expenditures for education by Charles A. Ullman in "A Note on Predicting Manpower Resources from Health and Educational Data."



In the Indianapolis Study data were collected concerning the occupational and educational status not only of the couples interviewed but also of the parents of these couples. These data form the bases for an article in this issue by John F. Kantner and Clyde V. Kiser, "The Interrelation of Fertility, Fertility Planning, and Intergenerational Social Mobility." This is the twenty-second of a series of reports appearing in the *Quarterly* under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."