

IN THIS ISSUE

DATA on weight, skeletal size, and period of gestation of neonates of obese women included in an experimental investigation on effects of nutrient supplements during pregnancy which was conducted at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia from 1947 to 1952 are presented in an article by Dorothy G. Wiehl and Winslow T. Tompkins, M.D. entitled "Size of Babies of Obese Mothers Receiving Nutrient Supplements." It is shown that women who are obese at the beginning of pregnancy tend to have heavier and longer babies than women who are of approximately normal weight. No correlation is found between prenatal gain in weight by the obese mothers and the size of their babies.

The obese women whose diets were supplemented with a protein concentrate had fewer babies of less than thirty-eight weeks gestation and less than 6.0 lbs. at birth than the women who received a multiple vitamin supplement or no supplement. If both the protein concentrate and vitamins were taken during pregnancy, weight at birth relative to skeletal size is increased somewhat and suggests better general development of the baby.

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The article "Medical Care for Acute Respiratory Illness in Two Communities in New York State" by Jane Coulter Mertz, presents data on the amount of medical care received by males and females at specific ages for acute respiratory illness.

Of the total illnesses reported during the three years of the study, 17 per cent received medical care. This medical care was centered upon young persons. The nature of the illness,

the extent of disability, and family attitude toward illness were believed to have an influence on the amount of medical care received.



This issue contains the twenty-third installment of a series of analytical reports bearing the general title Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility. This article, "Economic Tension and Social Mobility in Relation to Fertility Planning and Size of Planned Family," by Ruth Riemer and Clyde V. Kiser, is concerned with three aspects of social mobility: (a) the subjective, or degree of "economic tension," (b) changes in husband's earnings since marriage, and (c) changes in the occupational class of the husband. Being concerned primarily with *intra-generational* social mobility in relation to fertility behavior, this article appropriately follows the preceding one in the series which was devoted to *intergenerational* (father-son) social mobility.