

and obstetrical and prenatal factors in the prevention of prematurity.

The section on congenital malformation reviews the results of several laboratory experiments with the production of congenital anomalies in animals. Also, classes of malformations in human embryos and newborn infants are described, and various mechanisms of maldevelopment are postulated. In this section, the application of epidemiological methods to the study of association of congenital anomalies and disabilities occurring in human populations with events occurring during pregnancy and parturition and with various characteristics of the mother is discussed. Studies in New York State of children with cerebral palsy and of mental defectives suggest an association between prematurity and these conditions. From a statistical study of malformed infants born at Boston Lying-In Hospital, data are presented which indicate an association with prematurity, fetal loss and complications of pregnancy.

Conditions related to birth injury which are considered include late pregnancy hemorrhage, anoxia in the newborn infant, and pelvic contraction.

It is apparent from the data presented at this Conference by experts in many fields that research in progress is adding significantly to our knowledge of fetal development and of factors affecting a successful outcome of pregnancy. The outlook is hopeful that a solution of some of the problems can be expected in the near future and will result in better protection of life and health of the newborn infant. In many areas, much research is still needed.

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## GROUP DYNAMICS<sup>1</sup>

WHEN social science is big business, as it is today, one is not surprised to find certain segments flourishing while others appear to move at a more settled pace. The area of interest which is encompassed by the term "group dynamics" is one which has had a

<sup>1</sup> Cartwright, Dorwin and Zander, Alvin (Editors): *GROUP DYNAMICS: RESEARCH AND THEORY*. Evanston, Illinois, Row, Peterson and Company, 1953, xiii + 642 pp. \$6.00.

booming growth since World War II. The term is primarily associated with Kurt Lewin, his associates, students, and the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the University of Michigan, and these are heavily represented in the text.

The tenor of the text, which is composed of forty-one essays, is largely set by the editors, Cartwright and Zander, who are, respectively, Director and Program Director at the Research Center for Group Dynamics. What is in the tradition of the Lewinian topological psychology is best reflected in the six essays the editors themselves author and which serve to introduce the various sections of the book. These essays are in lucid and readable style, and suffer only from the particularistic language associated with the Research Center and from an apparent conflict of purpose of being concretely discursive and general.

While the remaining essays are garnered from many sources, there is no question that the heavy mark of Lewinian influence persists. However, newly emphasized approaches to research, such as Bales' interaction process analysis, also receive prominence in this text. Sociometric studies, and some satellite contributions round out the fare.

In a brief annotation it is not possible to review the many contributions in detail. It is a relative pleasure when the reviewer can state that the essays are of consistently good quality, which is the case here, but there are still some limitations which need to be mentioned. The job of editing has resulted in some essays which are briefer than the originals as published in the journals, and in some cases several publications have been joined, but there is a marked repetition of introduction. One will not be bothered by this unless he tries to read more than one or two essays at a time.

A second point that may be disturbing to the careful reader is that in many cases the hypotheses which are being tested appear to be either self-evident or trite in the light of the results. This is something of an illusion, and a good exercise for the reader is to imagine that a particular hypothesis is in fact rejected when it is not rejected. How easy is it to rationalize the opposite result? Which raises the other side of the coin, and that is that the reader may at times ask why other possible aspects of an experiment are not reported, or from how many possible tests of hypotheses those reported stem. In some cases one may be left wondering if the hypothesis originated when a

relationship was found. In part, the question will stem from the enormous emphasis on procedure and methodology; these are offered as contributions, at times, in lieu of adequate testing of the intended hypotheses. This, possibly, is a criticism that is more general than the particular studies of this text deserve, since there is little question that they are well selected.

A last point that the reader may find disturbing is, that, in spite of the editors' noble attempts at integration, there are wide gaps between the selections, and one does not have the feeling that the area is well covered. Nevertheless, this text is definitely a major contribution and serves as the best source on group dynamics and small group research currently available.

Aside from classroom use, which might be considerably restricted since effective use will depend quite heavily on the instructor, this collection of readings will be an important item for all persons working in the behavioral sciences. Practitioners at various levels, from group workers to psychiatrists and from personnel managers to top executives, will want to read these materials if they have a genuine interest in understanding behavior, and in finding out the source of some of the ready made generalizations that appear in the sugar-coated literature.

Persons interested in research in substantive areas of investigation, such as the family, population problems, housing, public health administration, and so many others, should take cognizance of the work in this area. While a good deal of the research reported is "purified" in the laboratory, the theoretical ramifications are of importance for those who depend on sociological and psychological theory for the eventual prediction of trends, if not the understanding of them. Many ideas need to be developed in this new flourishing area, but some are already available for the enterprising researchers in other fields.

EDGAR F. BORGATTA

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## FERTILITY AND MORTALITY IN AN INDIAN DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

**I**N 1951, a Section on Demography and Population Studies was established at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

<sup>1</sup> Dandekar, V. M. and Dandekar, Kumudini: SURVEY OF FERTILITY AND MOR-  
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