

## IN THIS ISSUE

THE second paper in a series, "On The Association Between Health And Social Problems in the Population" is presented in the following pages. It is authored by Antonio Ciocco, Paul M. Densen, and Donovan J. Thompson of the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh and considers "The Influence of Medical Care Problems." This study, based on a sample of families in the Arsenal Health District of the City of Pittsburgh, is designed to examine the problem of association between the health status of families and their social welfare problems serviced by community agencies. This second report analyzes the contacts of the families with social agencies as the result of need for medical care and as the result of other problems.

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The long-term effects of untreated syphilis in Negro males have been investigated by the United States Public Health Service by the method of continuous follow-up of cases over a period of twenty years. This longitudinal, prospective study has afforded unusual data on the natural history of syphilis and on survival of chronic cases. The lethal effect of syphilis is evaluated in the article by J. K. Shafer, Lida J. Usilton, and Geraldine A. Gleeson, entitled "Untreated Syphilis in the Male Negro. A Prospective Study of the Effect on Life Expectancy."

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The problem of variations in sex ratios at birth has long intrigued many students. In this issue Robert J. Myers presents a paper "The Effect of Age of Mother and Birth Order on Sex Ratio at Birth." The author uses data for the United States

for the years 1942–1950. The investigation began with the year 1942 because this was the first year in which births of each sex were cross-classified by age of mother and order of birth.

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There has been a great increase of induced abortions in Japan during the past six years. In the hope of securing a better understanding of this problem Dr. Yoshio Koya and his associates at the Department of Public Health Demography, Institute of Public Health, Tokyo, conducted a survey of small but intensive coverage among a sample of 1,382 married women “who had their first induced abortion. . . . [under]. . . . the Eugenic Protection Law during the period August 1, 1949 to July 31, 1950.” The Study is concerned with the relation of induced abortions to size of community, age, and number and sex of living children. A report on the Study appears in this issue under the title “A Study of Induced Abortion in Japan and Its Significance.”

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In a paper “The Relationship of Family Size in Two Successive Generations” John F. Kantner and Robert G. Potter, Jr. utilize Indianapolis Study data concerning fertility of the couple in relation to number of brothers and sisters of the wife and husband. The analysis is presented as a testing of one facet of the Indianapolis Study hypothesis that family and childhood situations affect fertility. The article is the twenty-fourth of a series of reports appearing under the general title “Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility.”