

IN THIS ISSUE

DATA on illnesses among subscribers to a pre-paid medical care plan in Windsor, Ontario, Canada were utilized for the article "A Short-Term Longitudinal Morbidity Investigation" by John R. Smiley, Carol Buck, and G. E. Hobbs. Prevalence rates for all illness and for specific diagnoses in one month (April) are compared for adults who were ill and those who were not ill in the previous January. Higher prevalence rates are found for the previously ill than for the not-ill group, both for men and women. The authors have classified the illnesses according to a psychosomatic code and show that a significant excess rate occurred among the previously ill persons for definite psychosomatic illness and for organic disease but not for accidents. Possible factors associated with illness liability are discussed and suggestions made for further study.

• • •

The effect of nutritional supplementation of the mother's diet during pregnancy upon the physical status of her infant at birth and its growth during the first months of life is explored in an article based upon the experience of patients at the Nutrition Clinic of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. In this report by Richard V. Kasius *et al*, "Size and Growth of Babies of Mothers Receiving Nutrient Supplements," no real relationship is noted between the supplements taken by the mothers and the size and growth of their infants. However, the infants of women receiving the vitamin supplement tended to be a little lighter at birth than the other infants, and implications of this finding are discussed in the article.

• • •

In a previous issue of the *Quarterly* Robert G. Potter, Jr., and John F. Kantner presented an article for the Indianapolis Study Series on the relationship of family size in two successive generations. To some extent this was an analysis of the influence of the cultural influence of parents on the fertility of their offspring. They have an article in the present issue entitled "The Influence of Siblings and Friends on Fertility." This is the twenty-eighth of the series of Indianapolis Study articles bearing the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."

• • •

A paper "Some Demographic Measurements for Egypt Based on the Stability of Census Age Distributions" is presented by Dr. M. A. El-Badry, of the Faculty of Cairo University and currently engaged in research at Princeton University under a Population Council fellowship. The author states "It is the purpose of this paper to utilize the near stability of the Egyptian age distributions from 1907 to 1947 to obtain a life table and certain other measures of mortality and fertility." The paper not only furnishes substantive data for Egypt but it also affords a technique which may be applicable to other underdeveloped areas lacking good vital statistics but having a history of approximately stable fertility and mortality, and an absence of migration across national boundaries.