




IN THIS ISSUE

THE relationship between the age at which children enter school and their reading ability several years later is examined by Dr. Ernest Gruenberg and Herbert Birch in "Reading Skills and School Entrance Age." The scores obtained on reading achievement tests by third to sixth grade children in Onondaga County, New York, are related to their age at school entrance, their chronological age and the number of years of schooling. Children whose "reading age" was 12 months or more less than their chronological age were on the average 5.3 months older at school entrance than the children not retarded in reading skill. At each chronological age, those in the earlier school entrance group scored higher in reading; but when the number of years in school was the same, the older children scored higher. Thus, those who entered school later had made more progress in reading per unit of time than the younger age entrants, but the latter had higher average reading scores at a given age up to 12 years of age.

• • •

The records from the Nutrition Clinic of the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia provide the data for an analysis of infant growth entitled "Size and Growth of Babies During the First Three Months of Life." This report by R. V. Kasius; A. Randall, iv.; M.D., W. T. Tompkins, M.D.; and D. G. Wiehl, is the third in a series of studies of the newborn from the Clinic. Comparisons of the average values of the measurements of weight, length, and chest circumference during the three months after birth are presented for white and Negro infants by sex,

as are figures showing the relative growth in weight and the two body dimensions during this period.

• • •

The reduction of the birth rate in Japan has been one of the most amazing developments in postwar population trends. A widespread desire to limit size of family in Japan apparently has been implemented in part by contraception and induced abortion, but also by resort to sterilization. The developments in contraception and induced abortion in Japan have been described, respectively, in the proceedings of the Fund's 1952 Annual Conference and in the July, 1954 *Quarterly*. The present issue contains a report, "A Survey of Health and Demographic Aspects of Reported Female Sterilizations in Four Health Centers of Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan." The paper was prepared by four physicians: Drs. Yosio Koya, Minoru Muramatsu, and Sakito Agata of the Institute of Public Health, Tokyo, and Dr. Naruo Suzuki of the Shizuoka Prefectural Health Department.

• • •

Some months ago the Population Council and the Milbank Memorial Fund agreed to supply the funds that were required for some tabulations concerning differential fertility from the 1950 Census punch cards on fertility. These data will constitute the basic materials for a 1950 Census monograph on fertility which is being prepared by Wilson H. Grabill of the Bureau of the Census, P. K. Whelpton of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, and Clyde V. Kiser of the Fund's staff. A preview of trends in fertility and fertility differentials by occupation of the husband and by age, color, residence, and education of the wife is presented in this issue by Clyde V. Kiser in the article entitled "Changes in Fertility by Socio-Economic Status During 1940-1950."

• • •

One of the hypotheses in the Indianapolis Study was that the stronger the interest in, and liking for, children the lower is the proportion of couples practicing contraception effectively and the larger is the planned family. The data pertinent to this hypothesis are presented in an article by Lois Pratt and P. K. Whelpton, "Interest in and Liking for Children in Relation to Fertility Planning and Size of Planned Family." This is the twenty-ninth of a series of analytical reports appearing in the *Quarterly* under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."