

IN THIS ISSUE

IN a paper "Problems of Trend Determination During a Transition in Fertility," N. B. Ryder emphasizes the need for using various measures of fertility if one is to secure well-balanced interpretations of past trends and the best possible judgments regarding the future. By way of illustration he uses the vital statistics for Sweden for the century and a half since 1801. Although the official data are of limited type the author exhibits much ingenuity in devising ways and means of bringing out various aspects of fertility trends such as the contrasts between period fertility and cohort fertility, between current fertility and total fertility, and between fluctuations and secular trends.



Those who are concerned with problems of economic development of areas of high population pressure sometimes search almost anxiously for signs of emerging differentials in fertility. Since declines in fertility are said to begin among urban groups of high socio-economic status, the emergence of class differences in fertility is sometimes interpreted as the harbinger of declines in fertility. In this issue Dr. M. A. El-Badry presents a paper "Some Aspects of Fertility in Egypt" in which he is concerned mainly with the search for evidences of variations in size of family by rural-urban and socio-economic status. According to his conclusion, "No evidence was found in the census or vital statistics data to support the assumption of lower fertility in urban than in rural Egypt. Reproduction was found to be lower to some extent among a limited number of educated people in urban areas."



Lois Pratt and P. K. Whelpton contribute an article "Extra-Familial Participation of Wives in Relation to Interest In and Liking for Children, Fertility Planning, and Actual and Desired Family Size." The analysis is based upon data collected in the Indianapolis Study and it relates to the experience of 1,309 "relatively fecund" couples with children in the adjusted sample of that Study. This is the thirtieth of a series of articles being published in the *Quarterly* under the general title "Social and Psychological Factors Affecting Fertility."

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In recent demographic literature there have been several articles purporting to indicate that declines in fertility have been much more important than declines in mortality in bringing changes in the percentage age distribution of the population. None of these, however, has provided the generic mathematical demonstration that is afforded in an article in this issue by Ansley J. Coale "The Effects of Changes in Mortality and Fertility on Age Composition." On the basis of his data, Coale concludes: "A rise in fertility produces an increase in the proportion in the younger age groups at the expense of the older; a proportionate increase at all ages in the probability of surviving affects only the growth rate; an extra increase in survivorship at the youngest ages has an effect much like a rise in fertility; an extra increase in survivorship at the older ages tends to raise the fraction at these ages."