



# IN THIS ISSUE

THE results of physical examinations of infants at birth and one month of age are presented by Alexander Randall, IV, M.D., *et al.*, in a report "Clinical Findings at Birth and One Month for Babies of Mothers Receiving Nutrient Supplements," the fourth of the newborn studies in the series, "Maternal and Newborn Nutrition Studies at Philadelphia Lying-In Hospital." The prevalence among the infants in the Study of about fifty different conditions is shown and related to the nutritional supplements taken by the mothers during pregnancy. It is concluded that the supplements have only a minor effect upon the physical condition of the babies during the first month of life. Also considered are certain difficulties which were encountered and which affect the consistency of the data in a long-term study of this type.

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At the outbreak of World War II, the Norwegian State Dental School immediately made plans to study dental caries in school children for the duration of the War and for several post war years. The study was stimulated by reports from several European countries, including Norway, after World War I that a marked reduction in dental caries in children had occurred. The prospect of another long war with similar changes in living conditions, especially in food supplies, presented an opportunity for more extensive observations on any changes in dental caries that might accompany conditions imposed by the war. With the cooperation of dentists in twenty-two widely scattered school districts in Norway, arrangements were made for annual examinations of school children and for records to be sent to the

Dental School in Oslo. The examinations were started in September, 1940, and continued through the school year 1948-1949; and, in order to extend the period of post war observations, examinations in many of the same districts were obtained for the school year 1951-1952 and 1952-1953.

The study was directed by Dr. Guttorm Toverud, Professor of Pedodontia at the Norwegian State Dental School, who also has analyzed the data. His report on "The Influence of War and Post-War Conditions on the Teeth of Norwegian School Children" will be published in the *Quarterly* and the first section is in this issue. The first section is on "Eruption of Permanent Teeth and Status of Deciduous Dentition." Later sections will present the data on changes in dental caries in the permanent teeth.

During the war years, a delay in eruption of permanent teeth is found for children of all ages from 7 years to 12 years. This later eruption was most marked at the end of the War and persisted for several years; it was greater for some teeth and at some ages than others. Reversal of the delay became evident soon after the War for the youngest children and by 1952 and 1953 a trend toward earlier eruption of the permanent teeth is noted at all ages; but the eruption time for most teeth was still somewhat later than at the start of the study. Delay in eruption of the permanent teeth is associated with later loss of the deciduous teeth for which a great reduction in caries is found. After the War, caries in deciduous teeth increased sharply and loss of these teeth at an earlier age is noted in 1952-1953. The factors involved in the reduction of caries in deciduous teeth, their persistence in the mouth for an extended period and in the changes in age of eruption of permanent teeth are discussed and the importance of nutritional factors is evaluated.