IN THIS ISSUE

ONE of the major problems in any epidemiological investigation, the complete and accurate identification of "cases" occurring in the population under study, has proven particularly difficult in the field of psychiatric epidemiology. A number of the techniques of psychiatric case finding which have been reported in the literature are the subject of a critical review, "Case Identification in Psychiatric Epidemiology: Methods and Problems" by Richard H. Blum. The reliability and validity of the various methods of case identification are discussed, with primary emphasis upon the psychiatric interview, since it is in itself an important method as well as the final standard for verification of the other method used. In conclusion, Dr. Blum considers some of the problems of defining mental illness and suggests areas of needed research in the methodology of case finding.

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The kind of service received by a patient in a psychiatric clinic may be influenced by a number of factors including the admission policy and staffing pattern of the clinic, the demographic characteristics of the patient, and the patient's psychiatric diagnosis. The importance of this latter factor in determining clinical services for child patients is examined in a paper entitled "Diagnostic Characteristics Related to Services in Psychiatric Clinics for Children" by Anita K. Bahn, Caroline A. Chandler, and Leon Eisenberg. Their report is based upon the analysis of the clinic experience of all admissions under 20 years of age to outpatient psychiatric clinics in Maryland between July 1, 1958 and December 31, 1959. Comparisons are

made between the children in the major diagnostic categories with respect to length of time under treatment, type of services received and outcome of treatment, and some implications of the differences and similarities observed are discussed.

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The Japanese National Railways, which has about 450,000 employees comprising approximately 290,000 householders, has developed a program for giving instruction in family planning. Some 160 midwives serve as full-time case workers and Dr. Yoshio Koya serves as consultant. Some 80,000 households have already received instruction and it is expected that all the 290,000 will have received guidance within five years. The program and some of the results are described by Dr. Koya in his article in this issue, "A Family Planning Program in a Large Population Group: The Case of the Japanese National Railways." That the Japanese National Railways, a public corporation of a semi-governmental nature, has taken such an active interest in family planning is in itself a measure of the seriousness with which Japan is attacking its population problem.

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As one facet of a study of differential fertility in Bombay which the Demographic Training and Research Centre is conducting, Dr. M. A. El-Badry has prepared the article "An Evaluation of the Parity Data Collected on Birth Certificates in Bombay City." A sample of 1,000 births occurring in Bombay during one year was drawn for interview. The article presents comparisons between interview reports (presumed to be accurate) and the birth certificate entries regarding parity of the mother and the extent to which foetal deaths and child mortality accounted for the existing disagreements between the birth certificates and the information supplied by the interviews. A high proportion of births in Bombay occur in hospitals, and the conditions for adequate birth registration are more favorable in hospital than in home de-

liveries. Nevertheless, besides its usefulness to those concerned with natality data in Bombay, the study will be of interest to those concerned with birth registration in other underdeveloped areas.

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The formal analysis of migration has lagged behind analysis of the other two demographic variables, in part because migration rates are more difficult to compute than are birth and death rates. In a paper "The Determination of a Base Population for Computing Migration Rates" Dr. Ralph Thomlinson identifies four criteria governing the suitability of base populations for use in calculating rates of migration-correspondence to exposed population, availability of data, accuracy of data, and ease of computation. Implicit in the first criterion are four qualities demanded for the base population—one each concerning fertility, mortality, in-migration and out-migration. The paper defines in verbal and symbolic form, seven possible base populations, using 1955–1960 migration as an example. Among these the author finds only two bases which are satisfactory. One base (the final population five years of age and older minus all in-migrants plus those out-migrants who resided in the area at the beginning of the migration interval) fits the four demographic qualities exactly, but necessary data are not always available. Another base (the final population aged five years or more minus one-half of the net positive or negative migration during the interval) closely approximates the requisite qualities and has the additional virtue of not requiring highly refined data. As a choice between these, the author recommends: given adequate data, a logically rigorous base is preferable; otherwise, a second-best may be used without severely violating the demographic requirements.