

ARTICLES, PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS OF
ACTUARIAL INTEREST

Medieval London Houses. by JOHN SCHOFIELD. (Yale University Press for the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, New Haven and London, 1994) £40

This book includes sections on Staple Inn, one (pp189-90) denying the link with the wool staple and suggesting that the *Stapled Hall* of 1333 was an aisled hall which stood on the east side of the yard, opposite the Institute's offices.

POPULATION

50, 3

HAUDIDIER, B. *Evolution comparée de la mortalité en RFA et en France (1950–1989) [A comparison of mortality trends in West Germany and France (1950–1989)]*. Both a period and a cohort approach are used to demonstrate the different trends in age-specific mortality rates, including the effects of past wars. There are interesting layered-tint 'contour' diagrams (by year of experience and age) of male/female mortality ratios and improvement factors, both absolute and over the previous five years.

50, 4-5

SHKOLNOKOV, V., MESLE, F. & VALLIN, J. *La crise sanitaire en Russie [Health crisis in Russia]*. Between 1965 and 1985 female mortality remained constant and male mortality increased. Male mortality then fell briefly, the effect of the anti-alcohol campaign on violent deaths. Since then the mortality of both sexes has increased, particularly after the economic crisis of 1993. Comparisons are made with mortality trends by cause in France and in England and Wales.

PRATI, S., *Une méthode d'analyse et d'interprétation des risques concurrent de mortalité par cause [A method of analysis and interpretation of concurrent cause-specific death rates]*. Competing risks are usually assumed to be independent, but chronic pathological processes are often correlated with predisposing factors (lifestyle). An approach is made by constructing probability vectors for a logistic model based on individual data from a longitudinal study.

POPULATION STUDIES

49, 2

O'GRADA, C. & WALSH, B. *Fertility and population in Ireland, North and South*. The gap between the marital fertility of Roman Catholics and others is narrowing in Northern Ireland, and has vanished in the Republic. Non-respondents may have been more Catholic than previously thought, but migration will have a greater effect than fertility on the religious composition in future.

WILMOTH, J. R. *Are mortality rates falling at extremely high ages? An investigation based on a model by Coale and Klisker*. Observed rates in Japan and Sweden fit the model (based on an age-specific relation between rates above age 85 to those around that age), and while mortality rates at very high ages have not improved significantly during this century for men, there has been an improvement for women.

HAINES, M. R. *Socio-economic differentials in infant and child mortality during mortality decline: England and Wales 1890–1911*. The period precedes that of regular reporting by the Registrar-General, following the question in the 1911 Census. Indirect estimates of childhood mortality were made using marriage duration cohorts by husband's occupation. Absolute differences were reduced, but relative inequality persisted.

POPULATION TRENDS

80

CRAIG, J. *Males and females — some vital differences*. Males outnumbered females in England and Wales up to age 15 in 1911 and up to age 55 in 1991. The female/male population ratio after about age 60 increased more steeply in 1991 than in 1911. In 1911 the mortality rates of men were up to 20% higher than women of the same age, but in 1991 the excess was around 50%, and even 250% among young men.

HARDING, S. *Social class differences in mortality of men: recent evidence from the OPCS Longitudinal Survey*. There has been little change in the well-known SMR gradient over the period 1976–89 amongst males aged 15–64 in England and Wales. Respiratory causes of death show the greatest difference by class, and ischaemic heart disease the least. The social class gradient tends to flatten as age increases.

81

ARMITAGE, B. *Population review: structure and distribution of the population*. The first part of a decennial review, summarising the changes since 1971 in numbers and age distribution, sex ratio, marital status, regional distribution, density, ethnicity and household composition.

CRAIG, J. *The review of parliamentary constituency boundaries — the reduction in the variation in electorates*.

MIRET, P. *Living together in Great Britain — displaying household structure through population pyramids*. For each quinary age-group of the same sex, a bar chart is presented giving their co-residents by age and sex.