

interviews were conducted at an antenatal clinic on primiparae, who were classified into three groups: a traditional orthodox group of largely Oriental origin, a modern Israeli group, and a transitional group with features of both. This division formed the main axis for the data analysis, and an attempt was made to interpret differences between the groups in terms of cultural patterns.

It is very probable, as the author says, that "understanding of the psychological make-up and attitude of the expectant mother may be increased if it is based on extensive information concerning the marriage background and immediate environment". Unfortunately the present attempt at documentation appears to fail at a number of points. At one stage the study is described as a "culture versus class" investigation, yet little evidence is presented that these have always been distinguished. Indeed, we are told that the three cultural groups differed in ethnic origin, education, and manifest intelligence as well as in social status. These differences are dismissed in one sentence, and such cavalier treatment impairs confidence in the author's conclusions. There is little information regarding the sampling procedure; tests of significance are applied to the data as a routine, but the results are ignored, and significant and non-significant findings are discussed with equal gravity; findings on the transitional group are also ignored where they fail to occupy an intermediate place between the other two, as the general theory requires.

Some of the incidental findings, presented independently from the main analysis, are of interest, as, for example, the associations between attitudes to sex and the frequency of vomiting: their interpretation is not easy.

The complexities of transcultural studies can be somewhat reduced if conducted within one country, and it may be that it is along the general lines of this book that the newer nations will contribute most to psychiatric progress.

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**A Study of the Population Movement in Nine Swedish Subpopulations in 1800-1849 from the Genetic-Statistical Viewpoint.** By C. H. ALSTRÖM and R. LINDELIUS. Basle: S. Karger. 1966. Pp. 44.

It is important, in genetic studies, to know to what extent the population under review is isolated from others so far as mating and fertility are concerned. The frequency of cousin marriages has been taken as an index but is unsatisfactory because it is influenced by many social as well as geographical factors. Professor Alström and Dr. Lindelius have used the records of nine rural Swedish parishes to calculate Sewall Wright's index, which is based on the distance between birth place of the parents and that of their first child. Calculations were made separately for 1800-1824 and 1825-1849, corresponding to two separate generations. There was remarkably little variation between the parishes in either period, although they varied in geographical area and in population size and density. Information is given on the number of marriages during the periods and the proportion of parents whose offspring reached mature age and themselves married.

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