

Opens discussion: Hilda Lewis, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Psychiatrist, The Children's Society and formerly Psychiatrist, Nuffield Children's Reception Centre, Mersham, Kent); John Bowlby, M.D., B.Ch. (Director, The Tavistock Clinic).

JUNE 23RD (AFTERNOON)

Chairman: Dorothy M. Taylor, M.D., D.P.H. (Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health).

A special session will be held on:—

"CARE AND EDUCATION OF THE EXPECTANT MOTHER"

Speakers: W. C. W. Nixon, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University of London and Director Obstetric Hospital, University College Hospital) (speaking from the hospital angle); Esther M. Rickards, M.S., F.R.C.S. (from the municipal angle); Clement W. Walker, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (as a general practitioner).

Opener of discussion: Hilda M. Davis, M.D., D.P.H. (Senior Medical Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council).

JUNE 24TH (MORNING)

Chairman: Sir Allen Daley, M.D., F.R.C.P.

"PROBLEMS OF DEAFNESS IN INFANTS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN"

Speakers: Mary Sheridan, M.A., M.D., D.C.H. (Medical Officer, Children's Department, The Home Office); R. W. Eldridge, B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Chief Assistant County Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council).

Opener of discussion: W. E. Wood, B.Sc. (Headmaster, Grange House School, Harewood, nr. Leeds).

JUNE 24TH (AFTERNOON)

A number of visits to places of interest in connection with the subjects discussed at the conference will be arranged for the optional participation of delegates.

Applications for conference tickets may be made to:

The Secretary, N.A.M.C.W., Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Price £2 each, to include a copy of the full report of the conference, but exclusive of coach tickets for visits (if required).

More Births: Fewer Stillbirths: Less Infant Mortality.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL announced recently the publication of Part II, the Civil Tables volume, of his Statistical Review for 1953.*

Marriages.

In 1953 there were 344,998 marriages, representing a rate of 15.6 persons married per 1,000 population. The number of marriages in the London and South-Eastern Region was higher than elsewhere, the rate being 16.7 persons married per 1,000 population. The most popular months for marriage were March with 56,840 and August with 38,255 marriages. The least popular month was November with 15,475 marriages. The most common age for marriage continued to be 23 for men and 21 for women, and there was more intermarriage between men of 23 and women of 21 than between men and women of any other combination of ages. There were 250 marriages in 1953 where the bridegroom was aged 80 or over, and in six cases he was 90 or over. There were 47 marriages where the bride was between 80 and 86 years of age. Of the men, 22,430 were under the age of 21, and of the women 39,544.

Births and Fertility

There were 684,372 live births in 1953, 352,037 males and 332,335 females, representing a rate of 15.4 per 1,000 population compared with 15.3 in 1952. Of these births 32,503 or 4.7 per cent. were illegitimate. The proportion of illegitimate births was 4.8 per cent. in 1952. The proportion of male to female births in 1953 was 1,059 male to 1,000 female. This is a return to the higher male to female ratio of post-war years after a downward fluctuation to 1,055 in 1952.

Stillbirths decreased in 1953 from 23 per thousand live and stillbirths in 1952 to 22 per thousand. The infant mortality rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 related live births) also fell from 28 in 1952 to 27 in 1953.

There were 8,787 confinements in 1953 resulting in multiple births, of which 8,703 were of twins, 83 of triplets and one of quintuplets.

Re-registration of Births.

In 1953 the births of 2,369 persons who had been born illegitimate but had been legitimated under the Legitimacy Act, 1926, by the marriage of their parents, were re-registered.

Adoptions.

During 1953, 13,064 children were adopted under the Adoption of Children Acts, 1926-1950, which was 232 fewer than in 1952. The proportion of boys to girls was practically equal: 6,530 boys and 6,534 girls.

Divorces.

The number of new divorce petitions filed continued to fall, there being 30,542 in 1953 compared with 34,567 in 1952. There were 30,326 decrees made absolute in 1953, of which 590 were annulments. Desertion continued to be the cause most frequently set down in the original petition.

More marriages were dissolved when both husband and wife were between 30 and 34 years of age than when they were of any other combination of ages. In the 6,614 cases where the wife was aged 30-34, 2,130 couples had no children and 2,333 had one child.

* The Registrar General's Statistical Review, 1953, Part II, Civil. H.M.S.O. price 5s. net (or by post from P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1, price 5s. 3d).

Summer Holidays for Diabetic and Epileptic Children.

THE L.C.C.'S HEALTH COMMITTEE are once again arranging for selected diabetic and epileptic children to have summer camp holidays this year.

The holidays are being organised by the British Epilepsy Association and the Diabetic Association. The British Epilepsy Association is planning to take a group of epileptic children between the ages of 10 and 16 to Evenley Hall, Brackley, Northants, for a fortnight in August. Evenley Hall has grounds of 100 acres and will be under the supervision of the Association's welfare officer, with an adequate staff of volunteer helpers. The Diabetic Association plans to hold two camps—one at St. Monica's Hostel, Kingsdown, Kent, for 20 children under nine years old, and the other at Whiteacre Lance Camp Site, Barrow, Whalley, Lancashire, from August 16th to 30th, for children aged 9-15. Full medical and nursing care will be available at both camps.

There is no doubt that the facilities provided by these two organisations have enabled epileptic and diabetic children to enjoy and benefit from a holiday which would otherwise have been denied to them because of the problems associated with their handicaps and the Health Committee are arranging to send some 24 children to the camps this year. Parents will be asked to contribute towards the cost but the charges will be met by the Council in necessitous cases.

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