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A NUMBER of studies have examined the effect of parity, maternal age and height, and length of gestation upon the weight and length of infants at birth. The report presented here analyzes the association between these four factors as well as the pregravid weight status of the mother, and infant size as measured by weight and six body dimensions. This report is the sixth in the series of Newborn Studies from the Nutrition Clinic of the Philadelphia Lying-In Hospital and is entitled "Infant Size at Birth and Parity, Length of Gestation, Maternal Age, Height, and Weight Status." Infant size is found to be associated with maternal pregravid weight status and height and the basic factor of length of gestation. Parity appears to have a positive, and maternal age an inverse, association with weight and some of the body dimensions but these relationships seem to be influenced by the degree to which the mother was overweight or underweight prior to pregnancy.



The postwar resurgence of the birth rate in Japan made it look as if that country's efforts at economic revival would be defeated by the spectre of overpopulation. The Japanese Government appointed a Population Council which, in 1949, recommended that the Government should promptly make possible the control of family size, not by induced abortion but by conception control. Since it was not known at that time which methods would be more acceptable and effective in Japan or how the needed instructions and supplies could best be distributed, Dr. Yosio Koya, previously Director of the Institute of Public Health, undertook something of a pilot

study and demonstration project in three villages. The results of the experience after seven years are described in an article in this issue. "Seven Years of a Family Planning Program in Three Typical Japanese Villages," by Dr. Yosio Koya, with the assistance of Dr. H. Kubo, Dr. Shu Yuasa, and Dr. H. Ogino.

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The January, 1958 issue of the *Quarterly* contained the first installment of a short series of articles by Dr. Robert Gutman on the history of birth and death registration in Massachusetts. The current issue contains the second installment and it is entitled: "Birth and Death Registration in Massachusetts. II. The Inauguration of a Modern System, 1800-1849." The Bay State's history of vital registration should be of interest to workers in vital statistics and public health, not only because of the early beginning (1639) of such history but also because of the mid-nineteenth century advances in Massachusetts' system of vital statistics. For these advances the author gives well deserved credit to General Appleton Howe, Dr. William Sawyer, Dr. Johnson Gardner, and most of all, to Dr. Lemuel Shattuck.