BOOK REVIEWS


This psychiatric and statistical study of a large Swedish rural population is a valuable book of references for anyone undertaking surveys of the kind described. The list of the references together with the notes of methodology are valuable in themselves. Two criticisms may be made forthwith: first, in regard to the title, it is hardly possible to conduct a methodological study of a population; here and there too the text bears the mark of translation, but these criticisms together with certain points in the arrangement (for example, separation of the summary and conclusion would have made for easier reference) should not be allowed to obscure the essential value of the data collected. It has been collected with great care, and covers 45 years of registration in a partially closed community with about 25,000 inhabitants, among whom 1,312 cases of psychosis, severe psychopathy, low-grade oligophrenia, and suicide were found by going through the 13 relevant parish registers for the years 1900 to 1944.

The results are to be published in two parts: the present part deals with methods, the representativeness of the sample, results concerning age of onset of disease, time in hospital, mortality, morbidity risks in the general population, and the frequency of consanguineous marriages. No significant increase in the frequency of first-cousin marriages was found between the parents of psychotics, but there such was an increase among the parents of oligophrenics.

The second part of the report will deal with the results of family studies, in particular the morbidity risks for parents and sibs, and will give the clinical and genetic analysis of the material.

BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)


BOOKS RECEIVED

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1955 18: 236
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.18.3.236

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