

## NEWS & VIEWS

### CONSEQUENCES OF SCARCITY OF DOCTORS

Fifty-seven per cent of those who die in India get no medical attention before death, and more than a third of infant death occur within seven days of the birth of the child, mainly due to domiciliary confinement, unattended by trained personnel.

These facts were revealed in the half-yearly sample registration of births and deaths conducted by the Registrar-General, of 1966-67.

Sample registration provides reliable data of births and deaths between two ten-yearly census enumerations.

It involve continuous enumeration of events by a part-time local resident enumerator, which is checked and rechecked before finalisation.

The sample consists of about 150 villages in every major State and selected units in urban areas.

#### MIDWIVES

As many as 82 per cent of births in rural India are attended by village midwives or elderly women in the family or neighbourhood. Only 11 per cent are attended by trained personnel.

This probably accounts for the high rate of Infant deaths, which account for about 30 per cent of all deaths.

The highest proportion of institutional confinement as well as domiciliary but attended by qualified persons is 15 per cent and 20 per cent respectively in Kerala.

The lowest was in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, where they are less than 1 per cent and 3 to 6 per cent respectively.

In the rural areas, there was no medical person in attendance before death in 57 per cent of the cases. Another 11 per cent of cases were attended by unqualified persons, 21 per cent by qualified medical practitioners.

#### HOSPITALS

Hospital care is enjoyed by hardly 11 per cent of sick persons during their last illness.

During 1965-67. 30 per cent of death were of infants under one year of age. The second highest proportion was in the 1-4 age group.

The distribution of deaths by age group presents an interesting picture.

The mortality rate in the 1-4 age group is 28 per thousand of the population. This falls to a low level of 4.6 in the 10-14 age group. And then it gradually rises upto the age of 50.

Beyond that age, the rate of mortality registers a steep rise.

A study of mortality sex-wise shows that the percentage of male deaths to female is more in Infants below one year, but the position is just the reverse in the 1-4 age group.

In the reproductive age group 15 to 24 years female mortality is higher than male, which may be due largely to higher maternal mortality.

The birth and death rates are generally higher in the Northern States than in the Southern States—Courtesy Indian Express 4th August 1969.

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“The third convention of the Indian College of Allergy and Applied Immunology will be held in Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi on 20th and 21st December, 1969 under the chairmanship of Prof. R. Viswanathan. The convention is open for all workers of field and those interested in presenting papers or cases or taking part in discussions are requested to contact Dr. (Mrs.) Satish Arora, Department of Pharmacology, Maulana Azad Medical College and Associated Irwin & G. B. Pant Hospitals, New Delhi along with the title of the paper, by 30th September, 1969. During the convention a symposium on Allergic Skin Manifestations” will also be held.

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The next Annual Conference of the Associations of Physicians of India will be held in Bombay in January 1970 along with that of the Association of Physicians. Those who would like to join this Society are requested to contact the undersigned. Those who have not paid their subscriptions and are members of the Society should pay their annual dues to the Secretary.

Dr. J. C. Patel, Secretary, Association of Physicians of India, Back Bay View, New Queen's Road, Bombay 4.



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