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BIRTH WEIGHT AND GESTATION TIME IN RELATION TO MATERNAL AGE, PARITY AND INFANT SURVIVAL

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Introduction

The present communication continues a statistical analysis (Karn, Lang-Brown, MacKenzie & Penrose, 1951; Karn, 1947) of the relation between birth weight and gestation time, taking into account the mother's age and parity.

The large body of data assembled from the records of U.C.H. Obstetric Hospital for the years 1935-46 contains information about 13,730 infants (7037 male, 6693 female) and their mothers.

A number of twins was recorded for these years, but, as the present investigation was concerned with the variations of normal birth weight and gestation time, these were not included. The data contained information on stillbirths and neonatal deaths (non-survivors at 28 days). 340 males, 274 females. Thus, the complete data were as follows:

	Males	Females
Survivors (beyond 28 days) Non-survivors (stillbirths and neonatal deaths)	6697 340	6419 274
Totals	7037	6693

The means and standard deviations for the four variables are set out in Table 1, for males and females, for the groups of survivors, non-survivors, together and separately.

Table 1. Means and standard deviations of four variables for (a) all births, (b) survivors, (c) non-survivors, and the difference (c)-(b)

	No.	Weight (l	ght (lb.) Mother's age (years)		Parity		Gestation time (days)			
		Mean	s.d.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	
(a) Males Females	7037 6693	7·27 ± 0·02 7·06 ± 0·02	1.32	28·23 ± 0·07 5·72 28·07 ± 0·07 5·57 28·18 ± 0·07 5·72 29·30 ± 0·34 6·24		0·89 ± 0·02 0·92 ± 0·02 0·92 ± 0·02	1·70 1·71	279.66 ± 0.18 280.60 ± 0.18	15·41 14·37	
(b) Males Females	6697 6419	7·35 ± 0·01 7·13 ± 0·01	1.10				1.68	280·71 ± 0·16 281·50 ± 0·15	13.02	
(c) Males Females	340 274	5.64 ± 0.13 5.28 ± 0.13	2·43 2·20			0.04 ± 0.00	2.12	259·06 ± 1·82 259·45 ± 1·93	31·89	
(c) - (b)	Difference in mean weight (lb.)				Difference in mean age (years)		Difference in parity		Difference in gestation time (days)	
Males Females		- 1·71 ± 0·13 - 1·85 ± 0·13	+ 1.23 ± 0.35 + 1.23 ± 0.35		+0·12 ± 0·12 +0·02 ± 0·10		- 21·65 ± 1·83 - 22·06 ± 1·94			

The means for non-survivors can be compared with those for the survivors. The non-survivors are thus seen to be significantly lighter at birth with considerably shorter mean gestation time and somewhat older maternal age than survivors. Parity in the two groups is the same.

ANALYSIS OF NORMAL BIRTH WEIGHT

In order that the data for statistical constants may be homogeneous, it is best to eliminate as far as possible the infants with gross abnormalities and low viability: this has been done by taking only the survivors after 28 days. The relationships between pairs of the variables are shown in Table 2, giving both total and partial correlations.

Correlated factors	Males 6697	Females 6419	Corrected for	Males	Females
Birth weight and parity	0.166	0.180	Age	0.166	0.173
	± 0.012	± 0.012			
Birth weight and mother's age	0.043	0.062	Parity	- o·o43	-0.032
	±0.012	± 0.012			
Parity and mother's age	0.482	0.202			
Gestation time and parity	0.041	-0.054	Age	-0.021	-0.018
	± 0.012	± 0.012			
Gestation time and mother's age	 0 ∙046	- o·o74	Parity	-0.030	-0.055
	± 0.015	±0.012			
Birth weight and gestation time	0.417	0.377	Age	0.420	0.384
Birth weight and gestation time	_		Parity	0.431	0.395
Birth weight and gestation time			Age and Parity	0.430	0.394

Table 2. Correlation between pairs of the factors birth weight, parity, mother's age, and gestation time, and partial correlations corrected for age and parity

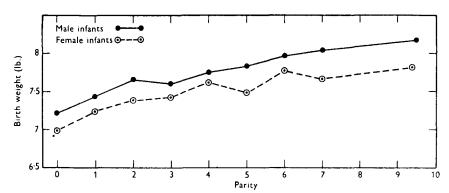


Fig. 1. Mean birth weight for given parity.

Taking first birth weight with parity and with mother's age, the correlation between birth weight and parity is significant (0·166, male; 0·180, female), and that between birth weight and mother's age is very small (0·043, male; 0·062, female).

The correlations between parity and mother's age are 0.482, male, and 0.507, female. With the help of these, correcting for age, the correlation between birth weight and parity is scarcely altered and is still significant (0.166, male; 0.173, female).

Correcting for parity, the correlation between birth weight and mother's age is changed to a small but significant negative value (-0.043, male; -0.035, female).

These relations are well illustrated by the series of mean weights for different parities in Table 3 and Fig. 1. The means of the first born are the lowest in both sexes, rising to nearly 1 lb. more for the high parities 8 and over.

Table 4 similarly shows how the mean weights vary with mother's age, the infants of the youngest mothers having the smallest weights which rise slightly, by about ½ lb. altogether, to the highest values at ages over 40.

		Wei	ght		Gestation time					
Parity	Males		Fen	Females		ales	Females			
	No.	Mean (lb.)	No.	Mean (lb.)	No.	Mean (days)	No.	Mean (days)		
0	4114	7.205	3933	6.982	4114	281.14	3933	282.06		
I	1307	7.437	1226	7.244	1307	279.84	1226	280.95		
2	548	7.654	466	7.384	548	280.82	466	279.75		
3	257	7.599	301	7.416	257	280.31	301	281.25		
4	162	7.750	156	7.606	162	280.61	156	282.96		
5	103	7.829	126	7.484	103	277:49	126	277.60		
6	67	7.955	71	7.773	67	277.97	71	280.94		
7	48	8.026	55	7.657	48	285.75	55	277.64		
8 and over	91	8.174	85	7.820	91	277·22	85	280.24		
Total	6697	7:350	6419	7.132	6697	280.71	6419	281.20		

Table 3. Mean birth weight and mean gestation time for given parity—males and females

Table 4. Mean birth weight and mean gestation time for given age group of mother—males and females, all births

		We	eight		Gestation time					
Mother's age group	М	Males		Females		ales	Females			
	No.	Mean (lb.)	No.	Mean (lb.)	No.	Mean (days)	No.	Mean (days)		
Under 20	291	7:259	228	7:041	291	279.78	228	281.34		
20-	1461	7:303	1519	7.033	1461	281.23	1519	282.58		
24-	1889	7:327	1711	7.140	1889	281.18	1711	281.93		
28-	1468	7.368	1401	7.145	1468	281.41	1401	281.29		
32-	915	7.358	879	7.201	915	279:30	879	280.86		
36-	484	7.480	453	7.249	484	279.21	453	280.21		
40 and over	189	7.566	228	7.252	189	278.59	228	277.66		
All ages	6697	7:350	6419	7.132	6697	280.71	6419	281.50		

The influence of parity on the mean weights in Table 3 would lead, theoretically, to still higher values of weight, if age had not the effect of slightly lowering them.

The influence of age by itself on the mean weights in Table 4 would, in the same way, lead to decreasing instead of increasing values if parity had not the effect of increasing the weight.

The two factors parity and maternal age thus have independent effects, parity having the greater influence, and mother's age very little. In a population where small numbers in the family are the rule, the former effect might be shown in an absolute deficiency of the heavier babies.

The opinion of many workers, quoted by Martin (1931), that weight is related to place in the family and that this factor is more important than the age of the mother, is thus confirmed.

These points are shown in Table 5, in which mean weights for given parity and age group of mother, for each sex, are given.

Table 5.	Mean weight	(lb.) for given	parity and ag	ge group of mother
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Males

Age group	Parity									
of mother	0	I 2		3 and 4	5 and 6	7 and over				
Under 20	7:24	7.61)) —		_				
20-	7.14	7·46	7.79	7.60	7:39					
24-	7.21	7.38	7.71							
28-	7.15	7:37	7.69	7.58	8∙o8	8.18				
32-	7.06	7.36	7:39	7.51	7.82	7.85				
36-	7.09	7.19	7:49	7.61	7·8o	7.96				
40 and over	6.90	7.16	6.99	7·91	7.49	8.02				

Females

Age group		Parity									
of mother	0	ı	2	3 and 4	5 and 6	7 and over					
Under 20	7:00	7.29	_	-							
20-	6.98	7.10	7:34	7.14	<u> </u>	<u> </u>					
24-	7.01	7:24	7.38	7.41	7.48	_					
28-	6.91	7:37	7.38	7.48	7.59	7.68					
32-	6.91	7.18	7.22	7.56	7.38	8.11					
36-	6.83	6.94	6.97	7:37	7.59	7.70					
40 and over	6.61	7.08	7.20	6.98	7.71	7.58					

In the columns of the tables it is seen that the first, second and third born have a definite decrease in weight as age of mother increases, while in the later parities the weights are high whatever the age of the mother may be.

The mean birth weight for the sexes together and for all parities (7·24 lb.) falls within the range of means for numerous data from diverse groups extending over the period from 1866 up to date, recorded by Murray (1924) and Henderson (1945).

Analysis of normal gestation time

When gestation time is the variable under consideration the accuracy of the estimate of the standard deviation can be improved by making a correction for the uncertainty of the exact day of the beginning. The only date given is the first day of the last menstrual period. The time of ovulation is variable and may be assumed to be, on the average, at the middle of the interval between successive menstruations; the date as recorded is likely to be too early by about 15 days, as a mean, some cases having an earlier, others a later beginning of gestation. Thus use can appropriately be made of the variance $\frac{1}{12}h^2$ of a rectangular frequency distribution in which all values of the variable lie within a range $\pm \frac{1}{2}h$ of the mean and are equally frequent (Yule & Kendall, 1940).

In the calculation of the constants for gestation time this correction has been used, with h = 30 days, in addition to Sheppard's correction.

Considering next the association of gestation time with parity, and maternal age, the correlations are found to be nearly negligible, gestation time and parity having the values -0.041 (males) and -0.054 (females), which when corrected for age have reduced negative values -0.021 and -0.018 respectively. The means in Table 4 confirm this negative tendency and indicate that, on the whole, the mean gestation times are shorter by a day or two for the later parities 5 and over.

Gestation time and age have also a small negative correlation, with values -0.046 (males) and -0.074 (females), reducing to -0.030 and -0.055 respectively when corrected for parity.

Table 4 shows the same effect in the mean gestation times for age, those for mothers under 32 being a day or two longer than those from 32 upwards.

The conclusion reached by Gibson & McKeown (1950) for Birmingham data is that there is no consistent relationship between mean gestation time and maternal age and parity; but the above correlations show a negative correspondence in both, small but significant.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BIRTH WEIGHT AND GESTATION TIME

One of the main objects of this investigation was to explore the relationship between birth weight and gestation time. In the previous analysis (Karn et al. 1951) of familial data the correlation was found to be of varying value in different groups, from 0.3 to 0.5. With much larger numbers this correlation is now 0.417 for males and 0.377 for females, uncorrected. When allowance is made for the small influence of maternal age and parity on both weight and gestation time, the correlation is raised to 0.430 for males and 0.394 for females.

	(a) Males		(b) Females					
Days	No.	lb.	Days	No.	lb.			
219.2	49	4.964	218.4	42	4.961			
237	131	6.107	237	98	6.403			
252	363	6.615	252	294	6.427			
267	1303	6.978	267	1166	6.769			
282	3220	7.463	282	3198	7.195			
297	1297	7.762	297	1320	7.488			
312	261	7.735	312	228	7.568			
327	61	7.853	327	57	7.423			
342	12	7.734	345	16	7.609			
All	6697	7:350	All	6419	7.132			

Table 6. Mean birth weight for given gestation time

The relationship is not entirely linear, and the regression of weight on time may be well represented by a parabola as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 in the above reference (Karn et al.). The mean weights for given gestation time are shown in Table 6 and in Fig. 2. Some remarkable characteristics are apparent in the illustration. The growth between 252 days (that is, 36 weeks or $8\frac{1}{4}$ months) and 297 days (that is, 42 weeks or $9\frac{3}{4}$ months) is definitely linear; there seems to be a slowing down of growth in weight to almost nil after 297 days; the male and female weights appear to be undifferentiated before 247 days, after which the males are always heavier.

Total

7037

340

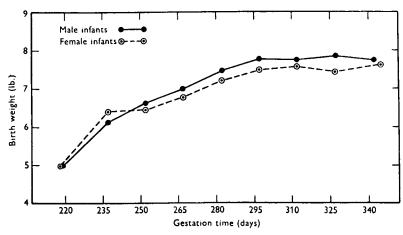


Fig. 2. Mean birth weight for given gestation time.

BIRTH WEIGHT AND INFANT SURVIVAL

In Table 7 the combined still birth and neonatal mortality rates per cent and the survival rates per mille, for males and females, are given according to weight.

The distributions of survival rates in relation to birth weights show highest values in the group above average weight, $7\frac{1}{2}-8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. (979 for males and 985 for females); next in order comes the group with weights $6\frac{1}{2}-7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. (with values of 973 for males and 981 for females). It is interesting

Birth			Males		Females					
weight (lb.)	Totals	Neonatal deaths	Mortality rate (%)	Survival per 1000	Totals	Neonatal deaths	Mortality rate (%)	Survival per 1000		
8½ and over	998	36	3.6	964± 6	630	20	3.5	968± 7		
7 1	2083	44	2.1	979 ± 3	1689	25	1.2	985 ± 3		
6 1	2405	66	2.7	973 ± 3	2570	49	1.0	981 ± 3		
5 1 -	1081	44	4.1	959 ± 6	1324	41	3.1	969 ± 5		
41-	269	34	12.6	874 ± 20	299	33	11.0	890 ± 18		
Under 4½	201	116	57.7	423 ± 35	181	106	58.6	414 ± 37		

Table 7. Mortality rates per cent and survival rates per mille for given birth weight, males and females

here to note the results obtained by Hosemann (1950) in Göttingen, who tabulated mortality rate at different birth weights; his survival rates beyond 10 days after birth shown in Table 8 are nearly comparable with those in the present data. Again, the most favourable rates are found in the range between 7.7 and 8.8 lb., that is, they are in the group above the average. Hosemann concludes, however, that the lowest mortality lies at approximately the average weight.

6693

274

4.1

959 ± 2

952 ± 3

4.8

It is natural to assume that in consequence of the action of natural selection the mean value of any biological measurement would be the most normal value and associated with the most

favourable survival rate. In the case of birth weight the optimal value from the point of view of avoiding stillbirth or neonatal mortality is clearly greater than the mean.

g.	lb.	Totals	Deaths within 10 days of birth	Mortality (%)	Survival per 1000
4500-	9.9-	123	8	6.5	935
4000-	8.8-	690	18	2.6	974
3500-	7.7-	2692	42	1.26	984.4
3000-	6.6-	3779	62	1.64	983.6
2500-	5.2-	1534	35	2.3	977
2000-	4.4-	275	24	8.7	913
Under 2000	Under 4.4	53	24	45*3	547
All		9146	213	2.3	976.7

Table 8. Göttingen data

The optimal birth weight can be estimated with fair precision on the assumption that both survivors and non-survivors have weight distributions approximating to Gaussian curves. The logarithm of the ratio of probability of surviving to that of not surviving would then describe a

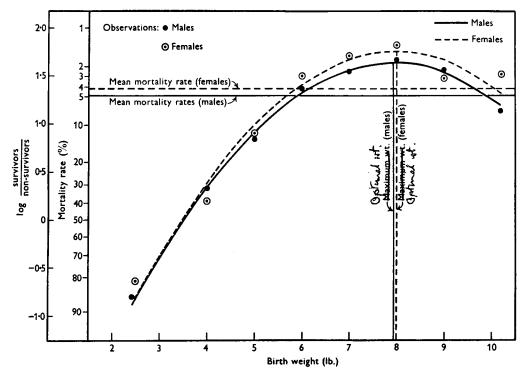


Fig. 3. Odds on survival and mortality rate per cent for given birth weight. Males and females.

parabola with its apex at the birth-weight value where the odds on survival was maximal. From the data under consideration, parabolas were fitted to the observed probability ratios at different birth weights both for males and females. In doing this, the contribution of each observed point was made proportional to the product, divided by their sum, of the numbers of survivors and non-survivors in each weight group. Fig. 3 shows the result of fitting these parabolas. The ordinate

(y) is the common logarithm of the ratio of survivors to non-survivors and the abscissa is birth weight. The equations are as follows:

$$y = -0.0832x^2 + 1.3195x - 3.5956 \quad \text{for males}$$
 and
$$y = -0.0848x^2 + 1.3586x - 3.6851 \quad \text{for females}.$$

The odds on survival are maximal (dy/dx = 0) at about 8 lb. in each case (x = 7.93) for males and x = 8.01 for females), and the mortality rate there is less than 2 %. The average mortality rate for males, 4.8%, occurs at 5.91 lb. and also at 9.95 lb. Between these critical points mortality rate is less than the average, and outside them it is in excess of the average. For females the critical points, where average mortality is 4.1%, are 5.85 and 10.05 lb. Infants of either sex, whose birth weights are below 5.9 lb. or above 10.0 lb., could be called 'dysmature', a more logical criterion perhaps than that defining as 'premature' those infants who weigh less than 5.5 lb. at birth.

GESTATION TIME AND INFANT SURVIVAL

The effect of gestation time on survival rates is shown in Table 9, the most favourable rates (975 for males and 982 for females) being found in the range of 275–289 days, which is the average group. Unduly short periods, less than 260 days, are, however, much more unfavourable than unduly long periods, 305 days or more.

Table 9.	Mortality rate	s per ce	nt and	$l\ survival$	rates	per	mille	for	given	gestation	time	in
$males\ and\ females$												

Gestation			Males			Fe	males	
time (days)	Totals	Neonatal deaths	Mortality rate (%)	Survival per 1000	Totals	Neonatal deaths	Mortality rate (%)	Survival per 1000
Under 260 260– 275– 290– 305 and over	688 1353 3302 1343 351	145 50 82 46 17	21·7 3·7 2·5 3·4 4·8	789 ± 16 963 ± 5 975 ± 3 966 ± 5 952 ± 11	556 1209 3257 1359 312	122 44 59 39 10	21·9 3·6 1·8 2·9 3·2	781 ± 18 964 ± 5 982 ± 2 971 ± 5 968 ± 10
Total	7037	340	4.8	952 ± 3	6693	274	4.1	959 ± 2

ESTIMATION OF INFANT SURVIVAL RATES FROM THE COMBINED DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTH WEIGHT AND GESTATION TIME

Since the infant mortality (stillbirths and neonatal deaths) is influenced both by birth weight and gestation time, it may be useful to inquire into the nature of their combined effects. These are not independent variables, and it seemed worth while to obtain a general formula for the odds on survival for any given values of the two variables amplifying the method described by Smith (1947) for discrimination between two classes whose measurements, like those of survivors and non-survivors, have markedly different variances. The calculation of this general formula from the data in Appendix Tables 1 (i) and (ii) is given in full, and the corresponding values of survival chances for males and females are illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 respectively.

The chance of an infant of given birth weight and gestation time falling into the non-survivor group being r %, and that of falling into the survivor group being (100-r) %, the odds on survival will be $\frac{100-r}{n} / \frac{r}{N}$, i.e. $\frac{100-r}{r} \times \frac{N}{n}$; and this will be equal to $\frac{f_A(x,y)}{f_B(x,y)}$, where the bivariate distributions of x (gestation time) and y (birth weight) for populations A (survivors) and B (non-survivors) are given by

$$f_A(x,y) = (2\pi\sqrt{w})^{-1} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}[i_{xx}(x-m_x)^2 + 2i_{xy}(x-m_x)(y-m_y) + i_{yy}(y-m_y)^2]\right]$$
(1)

and
$$f_B(x, y) = (2\pi\sqrt{W})^{-1} \exp{-\frac{1}{2}[I_{xx}(x - M_x)^2 + 2I_{xy}(x - M_x)(y - M_y) + I_{yy}(y - M_y)^2]},$$
 (2)

 m_x being mean days of gestation time, m_y mean birth weight, v_{xx} variance of gestation time, v_{yy} variance of birth weight, v_{xy} co-variance of the two variables, $w = v_{xx}v_{yy} - v_{xy}^2$, $i_{xx} = \frac{v_{yy}}{w}$, $i_{xy} = -\frac{v_{xy}}{w}$, $i_{yy} = \frac{v_{xx}}{w}$, similar definitions applying to the values M_x , ..., V_{xx} , ..., I_{xx} .

Taking Napierian logarithms (x2) of equations (1) divided by (2)

$$2 \log f_A(x, y) - 2 \log f_B(x, y) = \alpha_{xx} x^2 + 2\alpha_{xy} xy + \alpha_{yy} y^2 + 2\alpha_x x + 2\alpha_y y + \alpha_y x^2 + \alpha_{yy} x$$

where the constants can be calculated in terms of m_x , i_{xx} , ..., M_x , I_{xx} , ..., m_y , i_{yy} , ..., M_y , I_{yy} , ... from the observations.

But $2 \log f_A(x, y) - 2 \log f_B(x, y)$ is equal also to $2 \log \left(\frac{100 - r}{r} \times \frac{N}{n}\right)$, therefore

$$\alpha_{xx}x^2 + 2\alpha_{xy}xy + \alpha_{yy}y^2 + 2\alpha_xx + 2\alpha_yy + \alpha = 2\log\left(\frac{100 - r}{r} \times \frac{N}{n}\right). \tag{3}$$

The right-hand side will be zero if r is the average mortality per cent, viz. 100N/(N+n); and this will give the *critical* contour

$$\alpha_{xx}x^2 + 2\alpha_{xy}xy + \alpha_{yy}y^2 + 2\alpha_xx + 2\alpha_yy + \alpha = 0.$$

$$\tag{4}$$

A series of contours can be obtained by giving different values to r in equation (3).

In the calculation of the constants from the data an arbitrary origin x = 282 days, y = 6.9844 lb. and units of 15 days and 1 lb. respectively have been used.

It has been found convenient then to transform equation (4) to parallel co-ordinate axes through the centre, giving

$$-1.1275x^2 + 0.3147xy - 0.4714y^2 + 3.3091 = 0$$
 (males)

and $-1.2245x^2 + 0.2452xy - 0.4929y^2 + 3.5799 = 0$ (females),

the centre being $283 \cdot 28$ days, $7 \cdot 846$ lb. for males; $283 \cdot 39$ days, $7 \cdot 842$ lb. for females. These are the optimal values.

The horizontal diameter y = 0 cuts the ellipse in points

$$x = \pm 1.7131$$
 (males) and $x = \pm 1.7099$ (females). (5)

The diameter conjugate to y = 0 in each case, that is,

$$-1.1275x + 0.1574y = 0$$
 (males) and $-1.2245x + 0.1226y = 0$ (females), (6)

cuts the ellipse (1), (2) in points where

$$y = \pm 2.7135 \text{ (males)} \text{ and } y = \pm 2.7293 \text{ (females)}.$$
 (7)

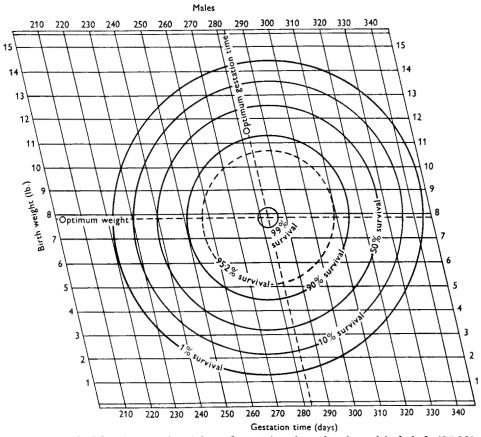


Fig. 4. Percentage survival for given birth weight and gestation time, showing critical circle (95.2%, average).

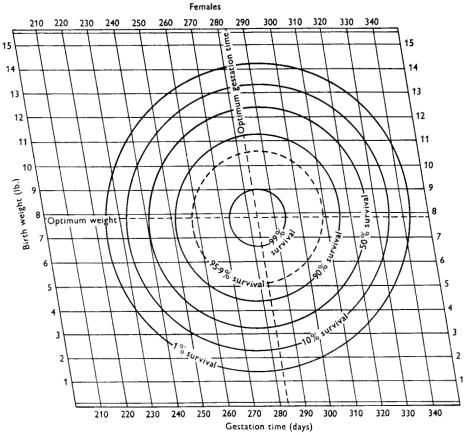


Fig. 5. Percentage survival for given birth weight and gestation time, showing critical circle (95.9%, average).

Contours for different mortality or survival rates can be drawn over a grid (Figs. 4, 5). In order to simplify the appearance of these contours, the ellipses have, by choice of suitable oblique co-ordinate axes and relative scale of x and y, been transformed into circles. The axis of x is kept the same, and a new y-axis is taken making an angle θ with the vertical, anti-clockwise, so that the conjugate diameters (6) become vertical, and θ has the values

$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.1574}{1.1275}\right)$$
, i.e. $\tan^{-1}\left(0.1396\right)$ (males)
$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.1226}{1.2245}\right)$$
, i.e. $\tan^{-1}\left(0.1001\right)$ (females).

and

$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.1226}{1.2245}\right)$$
, i.e. $\tan^{-1}\left(0.1001\right)$ (females).

Then, using the ratio of the corresponding values of x and y given in (5) and (7), 1.7131 x-units are to be equal to 2.7135 y-units (males) and 1.7099 x-units are to be equal to 2.7293 y-units (females), that is, taking the new y-unit as 1.7131/2.7135 or 0.6313 times the original (males), and 1.7099/2.7293 or 0.6265 times the original (females), the ellipses will appear to be circular.

The angle θ in the new scale will be

$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.1396}{0.6313}\right)$$
, i.e. $\tan^{-1}\left(0.2211\right)$ or $12^{\circ}\ 28'$ (males)

and

$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.1396}{0.6313}\right)$$
, i.e. $\tan^{-1}\left(0.2211\right)$ or $12^{\circ}\ 28'$ (males)
$$\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{0.1001}{0.6265}\right)$$
, i.e. $\tan^{-1}\left(0.1598\right)$ or $9^{\circ}\ 5'$ (females).

The critical circle, then, is that which has centre at the centre of the ellipse, and radius 25.70 days or 2.71 lb. (males), and radius 25.65 days or 2.73 lb. (females). It marks the boundary on which the rate of mortality is average, 4.83% (males) and 4.09% (females).

Within the circle the values of weight and gestation time can be regarded as normal or mature, and those outside can be regarded as immature or 'dysmature'. This, again, may be a more logical classification of the data than 'premature' and 'postmature' groups.

In addition to the critical circle some other contours of interest can be drawn in the diagram, for different values of r.

Tabulation of results is shown in Table 10, giving the radius x (as days of gestation and as pounds) obtained by putting y = 0 in equation (3) transformed to parallel co-ordinate axes through the centre, that is,

$$-1 \cdot 1275x^2 + 0 \cdot 3147xy - 0 \cdot 4714y^2 + 3 \cdot 3091 = 2 \log \left(\frac{100 - r}{r} \times \frac{340}{6697}\right) \quad \text{(males)}$$

and
$$-1 \cdot 2245x^2 + 0 \cdot 2452xy - 0 \cdot 4929y^2 + 3 \cdot 5799 = 2 \log \left(\frac{100 - r}{r} \times \frac{274}{6419} \right) \quad \text{(females)}.$$

For help in the interpretation of the diagrams it may be noted that the 1 % mortality rate applies, for the males, to the small range of gestation time and weight of 4 days less or more than the centre value 283.28, and 0.42 lb. less or more than the value 7.846, that is, for 279-287 days and 7·43-8·27 lb.

The females, however, have a larger range for this low mortality rate, viz. 272-294 days and 6.64-9.04 lb.

In other respects the odds on survival are about the same for the sexes.

Table 10. Radius of contour (as days of gestation time or lb. of birth weight) of different survival rates per cent

(a) Males,
$$1.1275x^2 = 2 \log \frac{r}{100 - r} + 9.2701$$
.

	Mortality	Survival		is with centre days, 7·846 l	
	(%) r	(%) 100 <i>-r</i>	x (15 day units) or y (lb.)	Days	lb.
Max. survival	o∙96 1	99 ·0 4	o o·266	3.88 o	0 0·42
Av. survival	4·83 10 50 90	95·17 90 50 10	1·713 2·080 2·867 3·481 4·046	25·70 31·19 43·01 52·22 60·69	2·71 3·29 4·54 5·51 6·41

(b) Females,
$$1.2245x^2 = 2 \log \frac{r}{100-r} + 9.8877$$
.

	Mortality	Survival		us with centre days, 7·842 l	
	(%) r	(%) 100 <i>-r</i>	x(15 day units) or y (lb.)	Days	lb.
Max. survival	0.71	99·29 99	o o·755	0	0 1·20
Av. survival	4·09	95.91 99	1.710	25·65 31·77	2·73 3·38
	50 90	50 10	2·842 3·415	42·63 51·23	4·54 5·45
	99	I	3.947	59.51	6.30

SUMMARY

An analysis of data from the records of nearly 14,000 male and female infants of mothers attending University College Obstetric Hospital has confirmed that birth weight and days of gestation are correlated to the extent of 0.4, that birth weight increases with parity, but decreases slightly with mother's age, that the correlation of mother's age and parity is 0.5.

A calculation of survival rates showed the most favourable point to be above mean weight, at nearly 8 lb.

For gestation time the highest survival rate was close to the mean value.

Parabolas are found to give a good fit to the logarithm of odds on survival for given birth weight, for males and females.

Tables and diagrams are provided for estimating the survival rate for any given weight and gestation time.

The writers wish to thank all those who have helped to obtain and to prepare the material used in this investigation, in particular, Prof. W. Nixon, Dr H. O. Hartley, Miss Helen J. MacKenzie, and Mrs M. Johnson.

APPENDIX

N.B. All births (heavy type): non-survivors (italics) throughout.

Table 1 (i). Birth weight and gestation time (males)

Birth																			(Jestat	ion tim	e (da	ys)																		Total
weight (lb.)*	155-	160-	165-	170-	175	- 180	- 1	85-	190-	195-	200	- 205-	210	215-	220-	225-	230-	235-	240	245	250-	255	- 260-	265-	270-	275-	280	285-	290-	295-	300-	305-	310-	315-	320-	325-	330-	335-	340-	345-	Total
13-131	:	:	:	:	:	:				•							:		:	:				:	·	:	:	1 1	·				·	:		:					1 I
12-	•	:	:			:			•	:			:				:							:	•	:	•	:		:		:	:	:			•	:			
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11-	•	:			:	:				:			:	:	:		:		:	:	:	:		:	•	· <u>·</u>		1	2	:	1	:			:	•	:				2 2
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TABLE 1 (i)

*E.g. Group 7 - indicates 6 $\frac{15\frac{2}{4}}{16}$ to 7 $\frac{7\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ lb.

Using origin x = 282 days, with grouping 15 days (275-, 280-, and 285-) etc.; for 6697 survivors, $m_x = -0.086158$, $v_{xx} = 0.753006$; for 340 non-survivors, $M_x = -1.529412$, $V_{xx} = 5.020703$ and y = 6.9844 lb. with grouping 1 lb. (6½- with 7-) etc. $m_y = 0.365686$, $v_{yy} = 1.377846$ $w_{xy} = 0.424668$ $W_{xy} = 0.424668$

Table 1 (ii). Birth weight and gestation time (females)

Birth																		**********	Ges	tation	time (days)																		Total	
weight (lb.)*	160-	165-	170-	175-	180-	185-	190-	195-	200-	205-	210-	215-	220-	225-	230-	235-	240-	245-	250-	255-	260-	265-	270-	275-	280-	285-	290-	295-	300-	305-	310-	315-	320-	325- 3	30-	335-	340-	345- 3	35		_
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L₁₇₂ EUGENICS TABLE _I (ii)

*E.g. Group 7 - indicates 6 $\frac{15\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ to 7 $\frac{7\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ lb.

Using origin x = 282 days, with grouping 15 days (275-, 280-, and 285-) etc.; for 6419 survivors, $m_w = -0.033027$, $v_{ww} = 0.674936$; for 274 non-survivors, $M_w = -1.503650$, $V_{xw} = 4.519450$ and y = 6.9844 lb. with grouping 1 lb. (6\frac{1}{2}-\text{ with } 7-) etc. $m_y = 0.147842, v_{yy} = 1.209954$ $v_{wy} = 0.341072$ $V_{xy} = 3.497442$

Table 2 (i). Birth weight and mother's age (males)

Birth weight							Mot	her's a	ge (ye	ars)							1	
(lb.)*	16-	18-	20-	22-	24-	26-	28-	30-	32-	34-	36-	38-	40-	42-	44-	46-	T	otal
13-131	•	٠.						•		•		.	1				1	
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91	•	!		1	•			:	3	6		: '		1	•		5	
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9-	2	10	17	31	28	37	31	33	29	26	24	17	9	4	3	:	4	30
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8	3	38	77	142	3 130	3 133	126	88	68	46	30	35	1 17	8	·	:	18	94
7 1 -		1	3	2	4	1	4	3	3	2	1	2				:	26	71
	7	54	92	146	167	149	148	112	88	6 1	54	32	23	8	} .		1	II 4
7-		62	2	1 92	6	4 211	8	2 121	107	2 74	6 56	31	2 20	6	:		41	- 45
6 1 _	2	3	129	5	217 3	1	173	1	2	1	50	34	20	2	2	:	25	140
09	4	37	100	136	150	132	114	97	90	47	38	30	13	13		I	-3	IOC
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-1	2	31	63	98	108 4	83	97 4	73 4	53 3	44	34	19	10	3	3	1	28	72
5 1	2	15	26	43	65	46	43	28	27	20	19	7	11	5	1	2	20	36
5-		-	2		1	5	1	2	1	2	1		1	.			16	
•	I	4	16	22	26	26	15 2	12	21	12 2	5 2	4	4	2				17
41/2	:	5	12	10	6	13	7	14	13	8	4	5	I		I		18	9
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Total	26	18 284	603	31 914	40 1027	943	37 868	32 669	37 578	396	304	18 218	10 129	6 57	18	3	340	703

^{*} E.g. Group 7— indicates $6 \frac{15\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ to $7 \frac{7\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ lb.

Table 2 (ii). Birth weight and mother's age (females)

Birth								Mo	other's	age (y	ears)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							Total
weight (lb.)*	14-	16-	18-	20-	22-	24-	26-	28-	30-	32-	34-	36-	38-	40-	42-	44-	46-	48-	Total
13-	•	:		:	:		:											:	· .
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10-			•	I	3		6	1				. 2		2				•	<i>1</i>
91/2				:	5	1 2	7	4 . 7	6	. 7	. 3		3	3	•	. 2			1 . 49
9-				12	1 15	1 23	1 14	1 24	2 25	2 10	1 12	4 . 9	. 10	8	3		. 2		9 .
81/2			1 11	3 28	43	35	55	1 47	37	38	1 18	20	8	7	. 4	. 2	•	ĭ	8 355
8-			22	63	97	35 1 99	81	98	72	70	1 46	25	27	10	9	. 3			9 7 2 7
71-		5	1 29	67	2 141	3 137	3 145	2	86	73	75	25 25	32	19	10	5	I	•	16 962
7-		7	-7 - 47	3 134	3 207	7 203	1 192	155	128	5 107	3 61	2 51	45	2 28	. 12	. 2	4		1383
61-		5	33	2	5 178	3 175	3 151	3	3 104	92	64	40	34	19		. 2	· .		1187
6-		4	20	95	128	5 93	4 110	3	2 90	75	2 44	34	1 18	·	1 11	6	-		23 831
51-			1 18	41	1 72	73	3 65	62	3	2 36	2 22	3 27	1 19	1	. 5	. 2			18 493
5-		. 2	<i>1</i> 8	23	3 29	2 21	1 25	2 24	20	23	 7	7	7	. 4	. 1	:		I	11 202
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^{*} E.g. Group 7 - indicates $6 \frac{15\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ to $7 \frac{7\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ lb.

Table 3 (i). Birth weight and parity (males)

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* E.g. Group 7 indicates $6 \frac{15\frac{3}{16}}{16}$ to $7 \frac{7\frac{3}{4}}{16}$ lb.

Table 3 (ii). Birth weight and parity (females)

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* E.g. Group 7 indicates $6 \frac{15\frac{2}{4}}{16}$ to $7 \frac{7\frac{4}{4}}{16}$ lb.

Table 4 (i). Gestation time and mother's age (males)

Mother's																		Ge	station	n time	(days)			,																
age (years)	155-	160-	165-	170-	175-	180-	185-	190-	195-	200-	205-	210-	215-	220-	225-	230-	235	240-	245-	250-	255-	260-	265-	270-	275-	280-	285	290-	295-	300-	305-	310-	315-	320-	325-	330-	335-	340-	345-	Total
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Table 4 (ii). Gestation time and mother's age (females)

Mother's																					G	estation	n time	e (days)	***-									· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				 -		····-		T
age (years)	160-	165	- 17	0- 1	175-	180-	185-	190-	- 195	j- 20	00-	205-	210-	215-	220-	225-	230-	235-	240-	245-			<u> </u>	265-		275-	280-	285-	290-	295-	300-	305-	310-	315-	320-	325-	330-	335-	340-	345-	350-	355-	Total
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Table 5 (i). Gestation time and parity (males)

<u> </u>							•													Gestat	ion tin	ne (da	ys)																		Total
Parity	155-	160-	165-	170-	175-	180-	185-	- 190	- 19	5- 2	-00	205-	210-	215-	220-	225-	230	235	240	- 245	250-	255	- 260-	265-	270-	275-	280-	285-	290-	295-	300-	305-	310-	315-	320-	325-	330-	335-	340-	345-	Total
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Table 5 (ii). Gestation time and parity (females)

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Table 6 (i). Parity and mother's age (males)

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Table 6 (ii). Parity and mother's age (females)

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