primitive groups, it is, unfortunately, no less important than among, for example, industrial populations in more developed areas. Modern methods of statistical analysis will make short work of studies based on comparisons between a dozen co-operative natives and two or three interested European investigators. The book shows that prospects for fruitful research in many areas of human biology are almost unlimited, but that the realization of this potential will depend as much on good basic study design as on work in the discipline itself.

T. W. MEADE

Familial Interrelatedness in a Swedish Rural Population. Supplementum ad 'Acta Genetica et Statistica Medica', Vol. 17. By Erik Essen-Möller. (Pp. vi+77; 1 figure+41 tables. sFr./DM 19.) Basel, New York: S. Karger. 1967.

Consanguinity can be considered from two points of view: *parental* and *general*, the latter being the relationship which exists between any two individuals in a population irrespective of whether or not they are spouses. This study was concerned with determining the total general consanguinity prevailing in a given population on one particular day (July 1, 1947). It appears to be the only extensive study of its kind.

The area selected for investigation is mainly agricultural and situated in South Sweden. It is not a geographical isolate and from a demographic point of view it is no different from the surrounding rural areas. It comprises about 11,250 acres and has a population of 2550. The ancestry of every inhabitant of the area was determined up to and including great-grandparents. Over 90% of the relatives were located. The degrees of relationship included in the study extended to second cousins.

The coefficient of inbreeding (F) based on the frequency of first cousin marriages was estimated to be 0.0007 and the coefficient of relationship (R) was also estimated to be 0.0007 for first cousins but 0.0013 for all types of consanguineous matings. It would have been expected that R for first cousin marriages should have been 0.0014 and the cause of the discrepancy between the observed and expected values is discussed at some length. Evidence is presented which shows that the degree of relationship is a function of isolation by distance, as was first suggested by Sewall Wright.

It is impossible to summarize and do justice to all the other findings in this detailed study. Clearly it would be most interesting to carry out similar studies in other countries and compare the findings with those in South Sweden. This report merits careful study by anyone interested in demography.

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