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Papers should in general conform to one of the following categories:

- (1) Original contributions on clinical or laboratory aspects of medical genetics in man and on related animal studies.
- (2) Short papers giving preliminary communications, technical notes, and case reports with unusual clinical or genetic features.
- (3) Review articles. These will generally be by invitation, but suggestions from authors wishing to prepare a review article are welcome.
- (4) Annotations, Hypotheses, and Correspondence will also be considered.

**Communications.** Papers, which should be in duplicate, should be sent to the Editor, *Journal of Medical Genetics*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W.C.1. Submission of a paper will be held to imply that it contains original work which has not been previously published. All contributions should be accompanied by a summary giving the main results and conclusions. Communications should be typewritten top copies in double spacing with wide margins and should be carefully revised; alterations in proofs, apart from printers' errors, are not permissible. Permission to republish must be obtained from the Editor.

**Illustrations.** Illustrations should be kept to a minimum. Diagrams should be drawn in Indian ink on white paper, Bristol board, or blue-squared paper. All photographs, graphs, and diagrams should be referred to as Figures and should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. Photographs and photomicrographs should be on glossy paper, unmounted; if any lettering is to be inserted, it should be indicated in pencil on transparent protective paper overlapping the picture, and not on the photograph itself. The legends for illustrations should be typed on a separate sheet.

**Pedigree Figures.** The symbols ♂ and ♀ should be used to signify male and female respectively. Miscarriages or sex unknown should be indicated by a small black dot. An oblique stroke through the symbol, thus ♂, indicates stillbirth, or death in infancy. Generations should be numbered with Roman and individuals with Arabic numerals: members belonging to the same generation should be horizontally aligned. An arrow thus ♂ should be used to indicate the propositus. A key to the symbols should be provided.

**Tables.** Tables should not be included in the body of the text, but should be typed on a separate page(s) and numbered with Roman numerals.

**Abbreviations.** Abbreviations, except those generally known, should not be used without an explanation at their first mention.

**References.** In referring to papers in the text the year of publication in parentheses should follow the author(s) name(s). Where more than one paper by an author (or

authors) has been published in one year, they should be differentiated as 1944a, 1944b, etc. The list of References in alphabetical order should include the names of all the authors and their initials, the year of publication in parentheses, the full title of the article or book, the title of the journal in full, the volume number, and the first and last page numbers; for books, the town of publication and the publisher. The following is an example.

Crome, L., Duckett, S., and White Franklin, A. (1963). Congenital cataracts, renal tubular necrosis and encephalopathy in two sisters. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 38, 505-515.

**Reprints.** One page proof will be sent to the author submitting the paper. Fifty reprints will be supplied free and further reprints may be ordered when the proof is returned.

### Nomenclature.

(1) Chromosomes. Authors should refer to the report of the Chicago Conference: Standardization in Human Cytogenetics (Birth Defects: Original Article Series. Vol. II, No. 2, December 1966. The National Foundation—March of Dimes, N.Y.).

(2) Dermatoglyphs. Authors should refer to Memorandum on Dermatoglyphic Nomenclature by Professor L. S. Penrose (Birth Defects: Original Article Series. Vol. IV, No. 3, June 1968. The National Foundation—March of Dimes, N.Y.).

(3) Enzymes. Authors should refer to Nomenclature of Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase in Man (W.H.O. Technical Report Series, 1967. No. 366).

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# Correspondence

*Journal of Medical Genetics* (1970). 8, 126.

Sir,

A number of statistical points in Dr. Verbov's interesting paper 'Dermatoglyphs in Leukaemia' in your journal (1970, 7, 125-131) call for comment.

The  $\chi^2$  test analysis of Tables I and II is invalid as the author himself points out (p. 125, col. 2, 3rd line from bottom *et seq.*)—quoting these test results can therefore serve no real purpose and appears to me positively misleading.

Fig. 1 and 2 (p. 126) show the distribution of individuals classified by total number of whorls. The author states 'proper comparison is impossible' between the cases and controls shown in these figures. But this is only true if one insists on doing a t test. For data like these a non-parametric test is required and here the best test appears to be the Rank Sum test, also known as the Wilcoxon test or the Mann-Whitney U test (Siegel, 1956). This test is valid and is approximately 95% as efficient as the t test when the t test is applicable. For males this gives a two-sided significance level of 0.03.

An alternative valid analysis of the data in Fig. 1 is suggested by Dr. Verbov (p. 127, col. 1, l. 10-11). This is to condense the data into a  $2 \times 2$  table as follows:

	Acute Leukaemia	Controls	Total
Whorls			
0-1	9	38	47
2-10	23	38	61
Total	32	76	108

but this test has less power than the Rank Sum test—in this case it gives a two-sided significance level of 0.06.

Yours, etc.,  
M. C. Pike.

#### REFERENCE

Siegel, S. (1956). *Nonparametric statistics: for the behavioral sciences*. McGraw-Hill Book Co. Inc. Student Edition, pp. 116-127.

#### Congress of Human Genetics

The 4th International Congress of Human Genetics will be held in Paris from 6-11 September 1971.

The morning sessions will be devoted to symposia for which there will be three invited speakers. Each symposium will be followed by a discussion. Afternoons will be reserved for the presentation of short communications. Round table discussions of certain subjects are also planned. The official languages of the Congress will be English and French.

Further details can be obtained from the Congress Secretariat: Congrès-Services, 1 Rue Jules-Lefebvre, Paris 9<sup>e</sup>, France.