

NOTES ON CAPPELL'S DATA

The comparison of the number of children surviving, as between Rhesus-positive and Rhesus-negative mothers, shows, as we rather expected, no appreciable difference, when allowance is made for the age-group of the mother. Actually the +ve mothers have reared between 3 and 4 children less than expected, but the Standard error exceeds 12 and, unless the real difference is less than these data suggest, it would need many thousand families to detect it. This probably gives the final answer to question (a) of our series, though of course it would be good to add further data if these are available. Question (b) could be answered only when the husbands have been typed, and (c) when the children have been typed. They are more likely to be informative on the real question of elimination. Of course, there can be no real elimination of the Rhesus -ve gene unless Rhesus -ve mothers really rear fewer children than Rhesus +ve mothers, but it would be difficult to exclude this possibility with a reasonable bulk of data. The proportion of deaths and other accidents to healthy births is slightly higher among Rhesus -ve than among Rhesus +ve, but appears not to be at all significantly so in this record.