

Editorials

BIRTH AND BIRTHDAYS

Five years ago in February 1958 the word *Journal* appeared for the first time on the cover of *Research Newsletter* No. 18. A glance now at this cover will confirm that the present issue is No. 38, the Twenty-first to bear the new title. The *Journal* has come of age.

So too has the Notification Form which has appeared at the end of each number also since February, 1958. During this time 610 doctors have used this form on one or more occasions; two have sent in 19 out of the full 20. The current form is No. 21, and has now taken on a new look. Its purpose in future will be to collect information for research purposes not only for the Epidemic Observation Unit but also for its partner, the Records and Statistical Unit. The form should be sent off promptly, as before, to the Epidemic Observation Unit by all doctors in the College, who feel they can contribute information to or take part in any of the current surveys mentioned. As before, detailed questionnaires or further information will be sent to participating doctors by the Unit or research worker dealing with each study.

A new and important enquiry is mentioned on Notification Form No. 21 and all doctors in the College are invited to consider whether they can take a share in this comprehensive study of the Outcome of Pregnancy (see below). By marking the notification form appropriately, they can signify their intention to join in or to ask for more information, which will be sent out from the Records and Statistical Unit.

THE OUTCOME OF PREGNANCY

Many devices have been evolved to protect the fertilized ovum of different species, and to ensure that a sufficient survival rate is maintained; for example, the prolonged gestation periods of the larger mammals or the profuse egg production of the cod or salmon where great losses are accepted as inevitable. Such elaborate mechanisms have arisen in the face of natural hazards to the race;