CORRECTION

THE FATE OF PREMATURE BABIES IN WARWICKSHIRE

Dr. C. Fraser Brockington has written to apologize for certain errors in the figures given in the table on p. 94 of his contribution in the June issue under the above title. The correct version of the table is as follows:—

PREMATURE BIRTHS IN WARWICKSHIRE, 1943

Total births .. 8650 No. premature .. 329 Percentage premature .. 3·8

Weight group, lb.	No. of premature births									No. dying (days of survival)															Over	No. surviving						Total	Percentage survival
	Born alive							Total	Born dead	First week							Second week																	
	A_1	A_2	A_3	B_1	B_2	C_1	C_2			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		A_1	A_2	A_3	B_1	B_2	C_1	C_2		
5–5½ ..	2	4	16	9	12	28	42	113	10	3	2	1				1		1						1	1	3	14	8	12	26	40	104	92·2
4½–5 ..	1	4	12	4	8	9	24	62	7	5	2										1			1	1	3	7	3	8	8	23	53	85·5
4–4½ ..	1	3	12	3	11	13	19	62	6	5	1		1	2		1										2	10	2	9	11	18	52	83·9
3½–4 ..	6	2	11	1	3	7	3	33	8	4			1					1	1					1	6	1	7	1	1	6	3	25	75·9
3–3½ ..	1		8	1	2	9	5	26	4	6	4	1				2	1				3		1		1		3				4	8	30·8
2½–3 ..		1	2	2		7	1	13	3	7	1	1	1											1		1					1	2	15·4
2–2½ ..	1		2			2	4	9	3	4	2													1	1						1	2	22·2
1½–2 ..	1		2	1		2	1	7	3	4	1	1			1																		9·0
1–1½ ..		2				2		4	2	2	1															1						1	
TOTAL ..	13	16	65	21	36	79	99	329	46	40	14	4	3	2	1	4	1	2	1	0	4	0	1	5	10	11	41	14	30	51	90	247	75·4
										82																							

A_1 Attended by an independent midwife.
A_2 Attended by a county council midwife.
A_3 Attended by a district nursing association midwife.
B_1 Born in a nursing home.
B_2 Born in a maternity home.
C_1 Born in a municipal hospital.
C_2 Born in a voluntary hospital.

He sends the following comments:—

The figure for the municipal hospitals has been altered; total of premature babies reading 79 in place of 61; with 51 surviving instead of 39. The survival rate is 65 instead of 64 (D–C in the script $=25\pm6{\cdot}1$).

This makes no difference to the inferences to be drawn, but it causes a number of minor alterations in the table and the script:—

1. The numbers and times of those dying are changed:

82 died, 54 in the first 48 hours, i.e. 67 per cent., and 83 per cent. in the first week.

Of those over 3½ lb. 22 out of 36 (60 per cent.) died in the first 48 hours.

Of those under 3½ lb. 32 out of 46 (70 per cent.) died in the first 48 hours.

The percentage dying in the first 48 hours is thus not 'higher' in the over 3½ pounders as stated in the script, but 'nearly as high.'

2. The percentage survivals are altered throughout, but not appreciably. Also one baby survived under 2 lb. out of 16 instead of 15.

3. The number of prematures reads 329 and the percentage of prematures is raised from 3·6 to 3·8.

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