

analysis of their mobility. It is the mobility of the group rather than that of the individual that counts.

In addition to increases in population, Table 2 suggests that the regional level of income may act as a strong inducement to new physicians. The simple prospect of a wealthy clientele might have much drawing power. People in the higher income brackets might be in the habit of paying their medical bills more promptly than persons with low incomes. But if the drawing power is based primarily on the physician's expectation to be able to earn a high income by charging higher fees, it will be greatly dampened if the high-income area already has a very large number of doctors in relation to population. On the other hand, a high concentration of doctors (provided that it does not affect income too adversely) might be attractive because it offers more opportunity for leisure. It is reasonable to assume that where there are many doctors it is easier to find vacation or weekend replacements than where there is a shortage.

The results of an attempt to evaluate the relationship of changes in the regional number of physicians to changes in a selected set of variables are presented in Tables 3 and 4, which show the coefficients of regression and of correla-

TABLE 3

REGRESSION COEFFICIENTS PERTAINING TO PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN THE
NUMBER OF ALL PHYSICIANS IN SIX SECTORS, 1950-1959^a

County group	Regression constant (a)	Coefficient of per cent change in population (b)	Coefficient of per capita income in 1950 (c)	Coefficient of per cent change in income (d)
Isolated rural	-40.43	.64	.02	.03
Isolated semi-rural	-29.34	-.22	.40	.05
Adjacent	48.26	1.42	-.50	.14
Lesser metropolitan	56.72	1.00	-.08	.29
Greater metropolitan	48.86	.92	-.01	.61
Coefficient of physician income in 1949				
Nineteen standard metropolitan areas	50.33	.96	.01	.00 ^b

^a The value of the coefficients is derived from the linear regression equation:

$$\frac{\Delta N}{N_{t(o)}} = a + \frac{b \Delta P}{P_{t(o)}} + c \frac{\Delta I}{I_{t(o)}}, \text{ where } N \text{ represents the number of physicians; } I, \text{ the}$$

regional per capita income; P , population; and $t(o)$, the initial year of the period.

^b Less than .005.