

Now doctors are worried that the opposite may be true.

In some cases the problem of infertility has become so serious that the women have had to be investigated and treated.

In charge of the inquiry are Stuart Steele, consultant in obstetrics and gynecology at London's Middlesex Hospital and Dr. Bridget Mason, a senior family planning association doctor.

COULD BE PROBLEM

The study may help doctors to identify certain groups of women for whom infertility could be a problem. Doctors would then be able to advise these patients against going on the pill.

Steele says: "There is some idea that certain patients would be better not on the pill and it may be possible to identify some of these."

During the investigation doctors will keep a close eye on hundreds of women coming off the pill in the hope of starting a family.

"With the recent scare about the pill, there should be quite a number of women coming off the pill but I expect the investigation will take a considerable time," he said.

NUMBER IS SMALL

"The number of women who reach the stage of infertility when you have to start investigation and treatment is small, but I expected most gynecologists will have seen a number of these cases."

One London consultant is quoted in a medical magazine today as saying—"we must not wait until we have a sterile generation before the danger of infertility is acknowledged and new oral contraceptive pills are tested adequately before they are marketed."

And Dr. Mary Edgerton, a consultant at London's Royal Free Hospital said: "I have never approved of the pill and I think it is on the way out."

Another expert, Dr. Margaret Jackson, Exeter's senior medical officer is quoted in "Medical News-Tribune" as saying: "One is coming across cases where ovulation is not returning and this is being watched for with great care."

(Whereupon, at 1 p.m., the committee adjourned to reconvene at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 15, 1970.)