report), and there is a presumed loss of some cases due to diagnosis and treatment elsewhere. The opportunity for loss of this kind increases with increasing time in attendance at the centre previous to the initiation of this study, and would be expected to mask any trend in Table I.

A study of the incidence rates of uterine cervical carcinoma in matched populations of women using various contraceptives is now in progress and should help to clarify some of the questions raised. First, it is essential that the differences noted in prevalence rates be confirmed by incidence rates before we can be entirely sure that these differences are not artifactitious. Data from the population of women who are wearing an intrauterine device will be particularly useful, since there is neither a barrier effect nor a hormonal effect with this particular contraceptive.

Clearly, the long-term well-being of many women is involved in these questions, and the health of women attending centres of Planned Parenthood of New York City has been of primary concern to us. During the course of this study every effort has been made to find and treat the women with cervical carcinoma or carcinoma in situ and related epithelial abnormalities while the lesions are still early enough to be cured in 100% of the cases. All women attending centres of Planned Parenthood are assured of prompt and proper treatment, regardless of choice of contraceptive. Preliminary data from centres of Planned Parenthood, unrelated to this report, show a sharp drop in the number of cases of invasive carcinoma of the cervix after establishing the policy of searching out and treating all women with carcinoma in situ. It is our conviction that death and disability from cancer of the cervix in any population can be greatly reduced, regardless of the method of contraception used, if a programme of routine yearly cytological examinations is established and all cases of carcinoma in situ are treated. So long as regular visits to a physician are mandatory for women who are using the steroid contraceptives in order to obtain a prescription there is a possibility for them to have better medical care, with less danger from cancer of the cervix, than any other group of women.

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