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INVESTIGATION OF RELATION BETWEEN USE OF ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND THROMBOEMBOLIC DISEASE

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In May 1967 a subcommittee of the Medical Research Council reviewed the preliminary results of three inquiries into the risks of thromboembolic disease in women taking oral contraceptives. One study concerned episodes of thromboembolic disease seen in general practice, and the final results have been reported by the Royal College of General Practitioners (1967). Another concerned women who died of thromboembolic disease in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland in 1966; it was undertaken by the Committee on Safety of Drugs, the full results being reported elsewhere in this issue by Inman and Vessey (1968). The third, which was carried out by the Medical Research Council's Statistical Research Unit, concerned women admitted to hospital for deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. We now report the final results of this study, based on more than double the number of patients, and add some new data on women with cerebral or coronary thrombosis.

I. DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM METHOD

Co-operation was sought and obtained from the medical staff of the 19 general hospitals of more than 300 beds situated in the catchment area of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, which maintained a sufficiently detailed nosological index. At each hospital the index was searched and the case notes were reviewed relating to all women who (1) had been admitted to hospital in 1964-6; (2) were aged 16 to 40 years inclusive; and (3) had been diagnosed as suffering from a condition coded Nos. 463-466 in

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