lack of striking and unequivocal findings is tempered by the feeling that the authors have no axe to grind and have made the report as truthful as possible.

Some of the outstanding findings are as follows: "Negro women expect to have more children than white women because they already have more, but the number they say they want is, on the average, about the same as for whites" (p. 90). The fertility differentials by education may have increased a little, or they may be reflecting a selective effect of the diminution of the lowest educational category (p. 88). "Generally speaking, however, the change in the pattern of fertility by occupational class has not altered appreciably" (p. 88). As for the trend of differentials by religion, "we offer the generalization that the widening of the Protestant-Catholic differential in fertility between 1955 and 1960 (as reflected in the average number of children expected) has not persisted between 1960 and 1965 and shows some indications of reversing" (p. 83).

As for proportions of women practicing contraception: "(1) the upward trend evident between 1955 and 1960 has continued through 1965, though necessarily at a reduced rate; (2) couples appear to be adopting contraception earlier in marriage; (3) Protestant-Catholic differences in use are continuing to diminish; (4) use of contraception has increased sharply among the more educated Catholic women; (5) education is generally becoming less important in differentiating use; and, (6) due to a substantial increase in use among nonwhite women, especially young women in the South, the white and nonwhite differences in proportions using contraception will probably disappear in the near future" (p. 136).

The dramatic popularization of the pill during 1960-1965 is discussed. Curiously, the intrauterine device gets only a bare mention in the book. This device was being used extensively in Latin America and Asia as early as 1963. Among 216 women in the U.S. sample who had quit the pill because of the side effects, none reported ever using the intrauterine device before using the pill and only 5 percent reported resort to it after the pill (p. 169). Apparently the number of nonusers of the pill who had experience with the device was not large enough to merit discussion.

Despite the increase in contraception there is still much failure in family planning. "For all measures of planning failure there are distinct differentials by race, religion, and education: higher failure rates for Negroes than for whites, for white Catholics than for white non-Catholics, and for wives with less education (except among Catholics). Nevertheless, these variations seem secondary in importance to the finding that there is substantial lack of success in fertility planning [with respect to timing] across the entire sample, regardless of race, religion, or education" (p. 235).

The reviewer has a few criticisms. The authors give very few comparisons of their findings with those of other students. They are aware of this shortcoming and plead lack of space and inconvenience. Nevertheless, it is necessary to synthesize the results of various studies if maximum usefulness of research is to be attained.

Because of "an incredibly low number of women in [their] sample who admitted ever having experienced an abortion" the authors decided to present no data whatsoever on the prevalence of reported abortion. Yet they present an elaborate analysis of attitudes toward abortion. One might well question the implicit assumption that although the women's reports of abortion are untrustworthy their statements about their attitudes toward it are sound.

After discussing the "deplorably high levels of inconsistency" in response revealed in a reinterview of a subsample, the authors rightly emphasize that "we must devote considerably more time to the data collection problem." They again put their fingers on the nub of the problem in the concluding statement of their book: "The data reported in this chapter [on birth and pregnancy intervals] are probably the most crucial to our understanding of the processes underlying fertility but at the same time the most fraught with possibilities of misinterpretation because of unreliability. The subtleties of complex explanatory systems, employing sophisticated social, economic, and psychological concepts, will provide meagre returns unless and until we learn how to measure more accurately the dependent variables at the core of the analysis of fertility."

Despite the criticisms mentioned the book is of the first water. It deserves a better index than the skimpy one provided.

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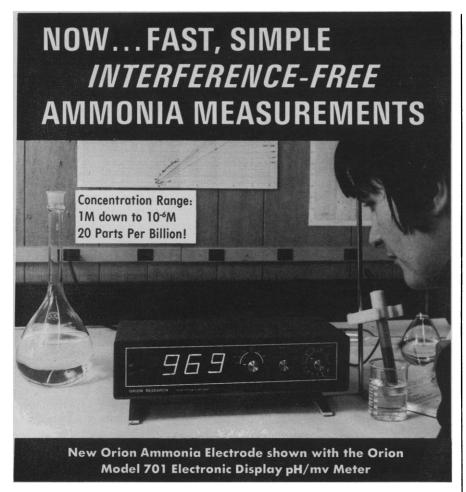
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(Continued on page 340)



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(Continued from page 292)

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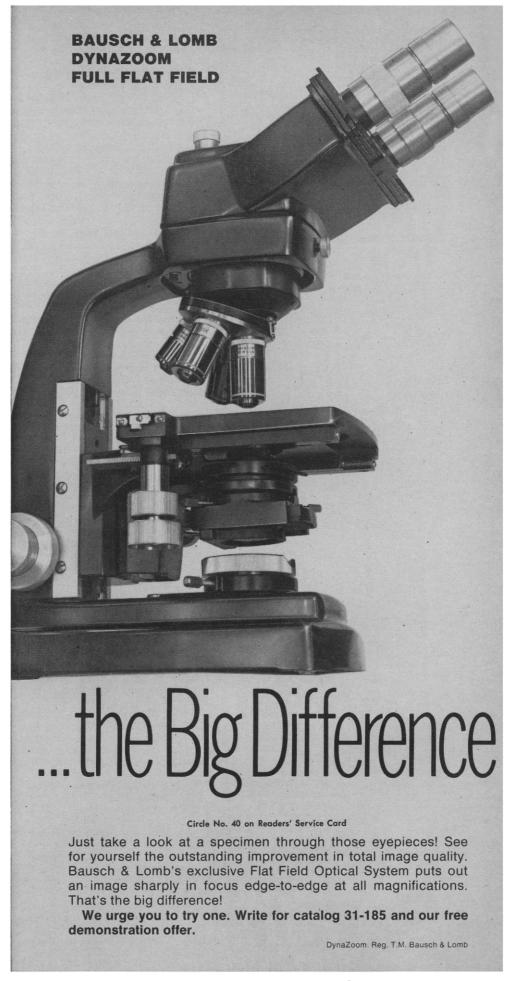
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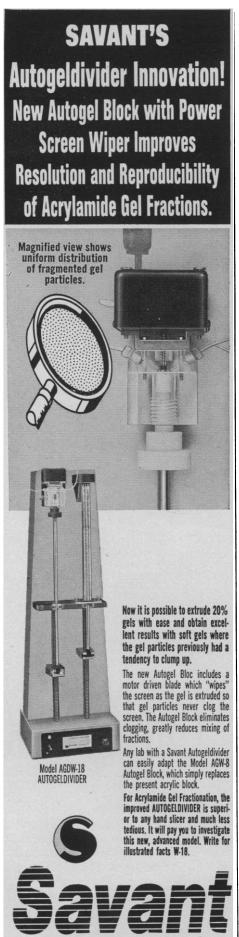
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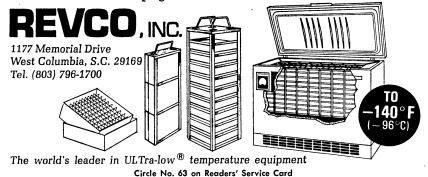
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