

E. IMMUNITY FOLLOWING VACCINATION OF THE NEWBORN

Newborn vaccination, which is increasingly being practised in the endemic countries, has been shown in several studies to be a safe procedure. Espmark,\* further, has shown that the neutralizing antibody level induced does not differ from that observed when vaccination is delayed until the child attains 3 or 4 months of age. Studies are now in progress to determine the persistence of serological immunity so induced.

Dr A. R. Rao, Health Officer, Corporation of Madras, India, reports that in his carefully documented studies of family contacts of smallpox patients, he has now observed, over a two-year period, 36 children who were vaccinated in infancy and subsequently exposed to smallpox in the family. Of the 36, 4 did not develop a primary take. Three of these 4 children contracted smallpox and died. Of the 32 in whom a take was observed, 3 developed smallpox but all were modified, discrete cases.

\* Espmark, J. A. and Rabo, E. (1965) Smallpox vaccination studies with serial dilution of vaccine. III Comparison of take rates in two age groups of infants. Acta paediat. scand., 54, 149-154