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BASED ON A SAMPLE SURVEY.

A sample survey of 500 middle class Bengalee Hindu families in Calcutta was conducted some-time ago in the course of which the ages at marriage of husband and wife and the age of the mother at the birth of each child were collected. The reliability of the data could be partly checked from the value of the sex ratio which was found to be, within errors of sampling, in agreement with the sex ratio in a long series of cases of births in Calcutta during the period 1850—1915 (*Sankhya*, Vol. I, pp. 215-230).

A straightforward weighted average of the age specific rate of birth of families has been constructed. This may be used in conjunction with a Life Table to obtain a preliminary value of the net reproduction rate. Although the size of the sample is small, the results obtained suggest the possibility of the present method being used with advantage to study the question of differential fertility for different castes, economic groups, or different geographical regions.