



THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)

Telephone: EUSon 1965

SKEPPER HOUSE,  
13, ENDSLEIGH STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.1

January, 1965

Dear Madam,

We are research workers from the University of London who are trying to study the financial problems of people who have large families, like yourselves. When we know the facts we hope to write a book because we feel that people do not know enough about the special problems of bringing up a large family and how you manage. Of course we shall not mention any names, and nothing you tell us will be passed on to any Ministry or to the tax authorities.

Would you be kind enough to let us come and visit you to explain more about what we are trying to do and how you can help us? If so, please post the enclosed postcard.

Yours sincerely,

*Brian Abel-Smith*

Dr Brian Abel-Smith.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



1955

SKELPER HOUSE,  
13, ENDLEIGH STREET,  
LONDON, W.C.1

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Yours sincerely,

Dr Brian Abel-Smith.

4526

25th March 1966

Mrs Valerie Ann Bolt,  
38 Jean House,  
Tooting Grove,  
London S.W. 17

Dear Mrs Bolt,

I called on you this week in connection with our study of large families and your mother explained that as you are working all day the most suitable time to see you would be in the evening. She suggested Tuesday March 29th at 8 p.m. If this is not convenient for you, would you send me back the postcard indicating which of the alternative evenings would be alright?

I know you do not have a great deal of spare time, but if you could find time to talk to me I would be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Research Assistant  
Dr Abel-Smith

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY  
AND SOCIAL MEDICINE,  
ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL,  
LONDON, S.E.1.

W. W. HOLLAND, M.D., B.Sc., SENIOR LECTURER

TELEPHONE: WATERLOO 9292, EXT. 159

31/5/65.

Dear Brian,

Herewith 1 set of  
forms, protocols etc of our  
Harrow & Kent studies.

Also the catalogue of  
the S-A.C. system of TV  
transmission of records.

Please could I have this  
back .

Miss Garrad will  
contact you re diet questions

Mrs. Janet Blake will  
sort our records so that  
we can tell you which  
families have 8, 7, 6 - - -  
children . Could you ring

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TELEPHONE: WATERLOO 9292, EXT. 159

her when you want this.

I'll be back on  
15/6.

Many thanks indeed  
for a very pleasant evening  
on Saturday

Yours  
Walter.

14th June, 1966.

I have now consulted Dr. Walter Holland, the head of the Department of Social Medicine at St. Thomas's, on the proposed classification of ill health and disabilities among children. I have also had tabulated most of the conditions reported to us in our 85 large families. Excluding enuresis, we had a total of 113 disabilities reported to us out of 608 children in this sample. I have now attempted to classify them on the basis which Dr. Holland suggested. You will see that for a number of items we have not yet got full figures, but I think that it would be useful for you to see the number of conditions which were reported to us under the headings which are so far classified. The proposed classification widens mental defect to include maladjusted and emotional disorders. Secondly, accidents are deliberately distinguished from congenital malformation. Ear and chest conditions are put together because they are believed to have a relationship in children. Still preserving the seven main categories, I suggest the following:-

Enuresis (not yet counted)

Emotional Disorders

Headaches	1
Stomach pains	3
Nervousness	2
Maladjusted	15
	<u>21</u>

Chest and Ear Disorders

Pneumonia	14
Bronchitis	14
Asthma	13
T.B.	4
Ear disorder	7
	<u>52</u>

Eye Disorders (excluding accidents) 13

Congenital Malformation

Spastic	2
Other	(Not yet counted)

Accidents including eye accidents

(Not yet counted)

Other

St.Vitus' Dance	1
Heart troubles	7

Miss G.M.Jones,  
Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance,  
1, Adam Street,  
London, W.C.2.



# The London School of Economics and Political Science

(University of London)



Houghton Street, Aldwych  
London, W.C.2  
Telephone HOLBORN 7686

Department of Social Science and Administration

15th June, 1966.

*Dear Hilary*

You will see from my enclosed letter to Miss Jones that I have been consulting Walter Holland about how to classify these diseases. I did not think it worth while asking you to produce detailed figures for this purpose in the case of those items which could not be separated in the way proposed for the material you gave me. For our purposes, as we do not have to confine ourselves to seven boxes, we might keep ear disorders still as a separate category. Also heart troubles might be treated separately. Walter felt that, if possible, all accidents should be treated together.

*W. B. Brain*

Miss Hilary Land,  
Skepper House,  
13, Endsleigh Street,  
London, W.C.1.

The London School of Economics and Political Science

(continued on following page)

Houghton Street, Aldwych  
London, W.C.2  
Telephone 1101-1102



Department of Defense and Administration

2021, 2022, 2023

Adm. Serv.

You will see from the above that I have been concerned with the problem of how to obtain the best possible results from the use of these materials. I have been particularly concerned with the problem of how to obtain the best possible results from the use of these materials. I have been particularly concerned with the problem of how to obtain the best possible results from the use of these materials. I have been particularly concerned with the problem of how to obtain the best possible results from the use of these materials.

DR. HOLLAND'S SAMPLE

From a random sample of 2,500 families one would expect to find

115 families with 4 children

42    "        "    5        "

30    "        "    6 or more children

Assuming that families with 6,7, 8 children are found in the same proportions as households with 8, 9, 10 people, one would expect of these 30 families:-

15 would have 6 children

8    "        "    7        "

7    "        "    8 or more children

From a random sample of 10,000 children one would expect to find that

1,000 come from families of 4 children

480    "        "        "        "    5        "

440    "        "        "        "    6 and more children.

Therefore one would have roughly

250 4-child families

96 5-child families

780 6-child, or larger, families.

Dr. Holland's Sample

From a random sample of 2,500 families, all of which had a new born baby in the calendar years 1963 to 1965, one would expect to find the following number of 'large' families:-

5 child	85
6 "	49
7 "	26
8 "	14
9 "	8
10 "	4
11 )	
12 )	
13 )	4
14 )	

Total = 190

From a random sample of 5,000 children one would expect to find that

240 come from families of 5 children

220 " " " " 6 and more children

Therefore one would have, roughly,

<sup>50</sup>  
~~48~~ 5 child families

<sup>73</sup>  
~~44~~ 6 child or larger families

Total = ~~132~~ 153.

o/o Skepper House  
13 Endsleigh-st      London    WC1  
EUSon 4526

Dr J Denham MD, DPM, Medical Director  
St Clement's Hospital, Bow-road  
L o n d o n      E 3

26th  
July  
1966

*Dear Dr Denham,*

I completed my work at St Clement's last week and would like to thank you and Dr Cockburn very much indeed for your cooperation and help. I was particularly fascinated to observe the Day Hospital in action (and Mr Forrest very patiently coped with my many questions) and it was also an agreeable surprise to find a geriatric ward containing patients of both sexes.

During the brief conversation I had with you, you gave me a copy of the paper presented at Paris and made several extremely interesting comments on your experience of poverty. I showed the paper and retailed the gist of your comments to a colleague, Miss Hilary Land, who is associated with the national Poverty Survey under the direction of Professors Brian Abel-Smith and Peter Townsend. Miss Land has recently completed a pilot survey of large families (ie: five or more children) and is now analysing the results. She had herself begun to ponder the role emotional instability in one or other partner might play in this situation and was accordingly very interested indeed in the remarks you made to me. Would it be possible for you to spare Miss Land half an hour to discuss with her your experience in this field? We are hesitant to impose further on your time but if on some day between now and early autumn you could find a little time, Miss Land would appreciate it very much. (Her address and phone number are the same as mine above.)

My thanks once more for your very kind assistance,

Yours sincerely,

*Sheila Benson*

Sheila Benson

