# FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON ROUTINE MEDICAL **EXAMINATIONS OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS** IN NORTHERN IRELAND

BY

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Every undergraduate entrant in his or her first year at The Queen's University of Belfast is examined by the Medical Officer (W.J.) or his assistant. We described the procedure, methods, and criteria used in an earlier report (Johnston, Cheeseman, and Merrett, 1957), which also gave estimates of physical and clinical measurements and the incidence of impaired vision and hearing in the 1949-54 entrants in a format similar to those now presented for entrants in 1954-59 (Tables I to VI). Since 1949 all but 740 out of 5,935 examinations have been conducted by the same physician (W.J.) assisted by two nursing sisters (one in 1949-54 and another in 1954–59). The only difference in methods between the guinguennia has been the introduction of an arm girth measurement at the beginning of academic year 1955-56 and the modification of methods of measuring sitting height and assessing hearing at the beginning of 1945-55.

Arm girth is measured by the physician using a

tape measure to the nearest cm. from the mid-point between the lateral tip of the acromion process and the lateral epicondyle of the humerus with the arm extended. Sitting height is measured as before, except that a flexible tape is used instead of a fixed scale and a watch is now used as the source of sound in the test for hearing.

Throughout this report, which is mainly concerned with comparisons between entrants in the two quinquennia 1949-54 and 1954-59, the word "significant" is used only to describe results unlikely to arise by chance more than once in twenty trials (P < 0.05). Where standard errors are quoted they follow the  $\pm$  sign after the estimate to which they refer.

#### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS, 1954-59

Tables I to VI and the Appendix show the analysis of the data collected for the 3,219 entrants in 1954-59.

<b>6</b>	V	Age (yrs)					Age (yrs)	
Sex	Entry	17-	18-	19-	20+	Total	Mean	Standard Deviation
Male	1954–5 1955–6 1956–7 1957–8 1958–9	71 46 57 60 50	170 193 214 203 239	70 85 95 151 170	71 100 109 124 127	382 424 475 538 586	$     \begin{array}{r}       19 \cdot 5 \\       19 \cdot 6 \\       19 \cdot 9 \\       19 \cdot 6 \\       19 \cdot 4     \end{array} $	4.5 3.6 4.2 3.5 3.1
	Total	284 (11 · 8)	1,019 (42·4)	571 (23·7)	531 (22·1)	2,405 (100)	19.6	3.8
Female	1954–5 1955–6 1956–7 1957–8 1958–9	45 28 39 32 34	65 77 89 77 117	16 26 16 25 29	11 30 19 25 14	137 161 163 159 194	18.5 18.7 18.7 19.0 18.5	3.6 1.8 3.0 3.9 2.5
	Total	178 (21·9)	425 (52·2)	112 (13·8)	99 (12·2)	814 (100)	18.7	3.0

TABLE I AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF ENTRANTS EXAMINED BY YEAR OF ENTRY

Figures in brackets give percentage age distribution for each sex. Comparison of age distribution between years of entry: (a) Males  $\chi^{4} = 50.05$ ; d.f. = 12; P < 0.001(b) Females  $\chi^{4} = 32.12$ ; d.f. = 12; 0.01 > P > 0.001.

		Mea	n Measureme	nt for Stated	Age Group	(yrs)	Standard Deviation
Measurement	Sex	17-	18	19—	20+	Total	within Age Group
Weight (kg.)	Male M Female F	66 · 5 59 · 1	67 · 7 58 · 8	68 · 8 60 · 7	68 · 2 58 · 2	67 · 9 59 · 0	8·64 8·27
	Difference (M-F)	$7 \cdot 4 \pm 0 \cdot 80$	8·9 ± 0·48	$8 \cdot 1 \pm 0 \cdot 86$	$10{\cdot}0 \pm 0{\cdot}91$	$8\!\cdot\!9\pm0\!\cdot\!34$	
Height (cm.)	Male M Female F	172·9 160·3	173·4 160·3	173·7 161·1	171·4 158·9	173·0 160·2	6.83 5.83
	Difference (M-F)	$12 \cdot 6 \pm 0 \cdot 60$	$13 \cdot 1 \pm 0 \cdot 35$	$12\!\cdot\!6\pm0\!\cdot\!62$	$12\!\cdot\!5\pm0\!\cdot\!66$	$12 \cdot 8 \pm 0 \cdot 25$	
Sitting Height (cm.)	Male M Female F	94·2 89·9	94 · 7 89 · 7	95·3 90·0	93·6 87·9	94 · 5 89 · 6	5·22 4·62
	Difference (M-F)	$4 \cdot 3 \pm 0 \cdot 46$	$5 \cdot 0 \pm 0 \cdot 28$	$5 \cdot 3 \pm 0 \cdot 49$	$5 \cdot 7 \pm 0 \cdot 52$	$4 \cdot 9 \pm 0 \cdot 19$	
Chest Girth (cm.)	Male M Female F	88·1 83·9	89·2 84·0	90·2 85·3	89·7 83·8	89·4 84·1	5 · 28 5 · 75
	Difference (M-F)	$4 \cdot 2 \pm 0 \cdot 53$	$5\!\cdot\!2\pm0\!\cdot\!32$	$4 \cdot 9 \pm 0 \cdot 59$	$5 \cdot 9 \pm 0 \cdot 62$	$5\!\cdot\!3\pm0\!\cdot\!23$	
Chest Expansion (cm.)	Male M Female F	8·3 7·3	8·6 7·2	8·7 7·1	8·3 6·7	8·5 7·1	1 · 76 1 · 40
	Difference (M-F)	$1 \cdot 0 \pm 0 \cdot 15$	$1 \cdot 4 \pm 0 \cdot 09$	$1 \cdot 6 \pm 0 \cdot 15$	$1 \cdot 6 \pm 0 \cdot 16$	$1.4 \pm 0.06$	
Arm Girth (cm.)*	Male M Female F	25·6 24·7	26·1 24·6	26·4 24·9	26·6 24·4	26·2 24·6	2·22 2·07
	Difference (M-F)	$0.9 \pm 0.23$	$1\cdot 5 \pm 0\cdot 13$	$1\cdot 5\pm0\cdot 23$	$2 \cdot 2 \pm 0 \cdot 24$	$1.6 \pm 0.09$	

TABLE II PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS

\* Estimates relate to the years 1955-59 only.

		N	Standard				
Measurement	Sex	17	18-	19—	20+	Total	within Age Group
Pulse Rate (beats per min.)	Male M Female F	77 · 0 78 · 2	75 · 5 78 · 1	75·8 76·6	74·2 76·5	75 · 5 77 · 7	9·87 10·28
	Difference (M-F)	$-1.2 \pm 0.97$	$-2.6 \pm 0.59$	$-0.8 \pm 1.06$	$-2 \cdot 3 \pm 1 \cdot 12$	$-2\cdot 2 \pm 0\cdot 41$	
Systolic Blood Pressure (mm.Hg)	Male M Female F	126·6 118·3	127·3 118·6	127·0 117·9	123·8 117·3	126·4 118·3	12·22 11·65
	Difference (M-F)	$8 \cdot 3 \pm 1 \cdot 14$	$8 \cdot 7 \pm 0 \cdot 68$	$9 \cdot 1 \pm 1 \cdot 21$	$6 \cdot 5 \pm 1 \cdot 29$	$8 \cdot 1 \pm 0 \cdot 48$	
Diastolic Blood Pressure (mm.Hg)	Male M Female F	69 · 6 67 · 7	70 · 7 68 · 3	71 · 1 68 · 4	72 · 1 68 · 0	71 · 0 68 · 2	9·02 8·41
	Difference (M-F)	$1.9 \pm 0.83$	$2 \cdot 4 \pm 0 \cdot 50$	$2 \cdot 7 \pm 0 \cdot 88$	$4 \cdot 1 \pm 0 \cdot 93$	$2 \cdot 8 \pm 0 \cdot 35$	
Vital Capacity (litres of air)	Male M Female F	4·0 2·8	4 · 1 2 · 8	4:1 2·8	3.8 2.6	4·0 2·7	0·68 0·51
	Difference (M-F)	$1 \cdot 2 \pm 0 \cdot 06$	$1\cdot 3 \pm 0\cdot 03$	$1 \cdot 3 \pm 0 \cdot 06$	$1\cdot 2 \pm 0\cdot 06$	$1 \cdot 3 \pm 0 \cdot 02$	

TABLE IV CLINICAL MEASUREMENTS

Apart from the results of hearing tests (Table VI) and arm girth measurement (Table II) not previously available, the age and sex trends of the various estimates (Tables II, III, and IV) are not materially different from those noted for 1949–54 in the earlier report (see Summary, paras 4 to 7). No age and sex differences in the proportion with defective hearing were noted in the later quinquennia (Table VI).

age in the female students, but the average measurements for males increased significantly with age and were significantly higher than those for females at every age.

### Comparison between 1949–54 and 1954–59

An analysis of the age distributions showed that the males in the later series were significantly older,

No association was found between arm girth and

Correlation between Age and Stated Measurement	All St Male	udents Female	Studen 20 yrs a Male	ts Aged and Over Female
Walaha	0.114	0.002	0.224	0.07
weight	0.11	0.002	0.731	0.07
Height.	-0.11T	-0.04	-0.08	0.0/
Sitting Height	-0.064	-0.02	0.01	0.18
Chest Girth	0.12	0.04	0.22	0.17
Chest Expansion	-0.08t	-0.07	$-0.13^{+}$	0.07
Arm Girth	0.16+	0.02	0.21+	0.16
Pulse Rate	-0.07 +	-0.08*	-0.06	-0.21*
Systolic Blood Pressure	-0·06+	-0.04	0.07	-0.28+
Diastolic Blood Pres-				
Sure	0.10+	0.05	0.15+	0.20*
Vital Capacity	$-0\cdot17$	-0.05	-0.09*	Ŏ·ĨŎ
* 0.05 > P :	> 0.01	t	P < 0.01	•

TABLE V VISUAL ACUITY

		P	ercentage	Distributi	on
Vis	ual acuity	м	ale	Fer	nale
	-	Later Data	Earlier Data	Later Data	Earlier Data
6/6 and	In both eyes	63.70	59.46	58.72	58.40
worse	12.31	12.51	14 • 74	11.87	
6/9 or	In both eyes	2.37	6.26	2.21	5.73
6/12 In one worse	worse	3.33	5.65	5.28	4.80
6/18 to	In both eyes	2.91	5.24	3 · 19	4.53
0/30	worse	4.95	3.00	4.67	4.53
6/60 or less	In both eyes	10.44	7.88	11.18	10.13
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
χ <sup>a</sup> (on abs Degrees of Probability	olute numbers) freedom	88 6 < 0	· 65 · 001	17 6 0·001	·26 0·01

Later Data

Between Age Groups	
Males $\chi^2$ (on absol	ute numbers)
	= 19.05; d.f. $= 18$ ; $0.50 > P > 0.30$
Females $\chi^2$	= 6.14; d.f. $= 12$ ; $0.95 > P > 0.90$
	(ages 19 – and 20 + combined)
Males v. Females	
γ <sup>2</sup> (on absol	ute numbers)
	= 11.94; d.f. $= 6$ ; $0.10 > P > 0.05$

by about 3 months, on average than those in the earlier series. No such average difference was found for the females. The male difference arose because relatively more 17-year-old and fewer 19-year-old males were examined in the earlier years. Consequently, comparisons of each measurement between the quinquennia are presented for separate groups of students of like age and sex. These comparisons are given in Table VII for the quantitative variables and in Tables V and VI for visual acuity and hearing.

Table V	
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HEARING

Age group	Percentage w Hearing in	ith Defective Later Series	Percentage Differenc in Later Series (Males-Females)		
(JIS)	Males	Females	$\pm$ Standard Error		
17- 18- 19- 20+	2.82 ( 6.11) 3.04 ( 6.03)* 4.38 ( 6.44) 5.08 (11.14)*	$\frac{1 \cdot 69 \ (6 \cdot 41)^*}{2 \cdot 59 \ (4 \cdot 95)}$ 2 \cdot 68 \ (6 \cdot 25) 5 \cdot 05 \ (4 \cdot 88)	$\begin{array}{c} 1\cdot 13 \ \pm \ 1\cdot 38 \\ 0\cdot 45 \ \pm \ 0\cdot 94 \\ 1\cdot 70 \ \pm \ 1\cdot 75 \\ 0\cdot 03 \ \pm \ 2\cdot 40 \end{array}$		
Total	3.78 (7.17)*	2.70 (5.47)*	$1.08 \pm 0.69$		

Later Series. On absolute numbers test for association with age:  $\begin{array}{l} \text{Males} \quad \chi^2 = 5 \cdot 29, \, \text{d.f.} = 3; \, 0 \cdot 20 > P > 0 \cdot 10 \\ \text{Females} \; \chi^3 = 1 \cdot 28, \, \text{d.f.} = 1; \, 0 \cdot 30 > P > 0 \cdot 20 \\ & (\text{ages } 17 - \text{ and } 18 - \text{ combined and } 19 - \text{ and } 20 + \end{array}$ 

combined)

Figures in brackets refer to earlier series.

\* Significant difference between the two series.

#### PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS

Up to age 19 both males and females of the later series were heavier on average than those of the earlier series, although not significantly so (Table VII, opposite). This confirms the results of the earlier series which occasioned some surprise because the average weight reported by us was higher than that reported by other workers for groups (including University students) of comparable age and sex.

Males of all ages in the later series were taller on average than those in the earlier series; the differences were significant for each age group with the exception of the 17-year-olds. A similar difference existed for the female students, but only in the case of the 19-year-old females was it significant.

In the three youngest age groups of males and in the youngest females, sitting height was on average greater in the later series than in the earlier, but these differences may be due to the different methods of measurement.

Although the only significant difference in chest girth between the two series of males occurred in the oldest age group, the males of the later series had a significantly greater average chest expansion in each age group. Female students of the later series had on average a significantly greater chest girth than those of the earlier series, but at each age had a smaller average chest expansion, two of the differences (at ages 18 - and 20 + being significant.

#### **CLINICAL MEASUREMENTS**

In 1954–59 there were differences in mean systolic and diastolic pressure between the four age groups in males but not in females (Appendix A, Serials 18, 19, 20, and 21); in the case of systolic pressure this was largely due to a much lower mean in the oldest

Macaurament	Ser	Mean Difference in Measurement (1954–59) Data – (1949–54) Data				
Measurement	Sex	17-	18-	19—	20+	Total
Weight (kg.)	M F	$\begin{array}{c} 0.7 \ \pm 0.68 \\ 1.1 \ \pm 0.86 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.3 & \pm \ 0.38 \\ 0.2 & \pm \ 0.55 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.8 & \pm \ 0.54 \\ 1.7 & \pm \ 1.02 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.7 \pm 0.55 \\ -0.6 \pm 1.17 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.3 & \pm \ 0.25 \\ 0.5 & \pm \ 0.40 \end{array}$
Height (cm.)	M F	$\begin{array}{c} 0.9 \ \pm 1.70 \\ 0.5 \ \pm 0.62 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 \cdot 3^{*} & \pm 0 \cdot 30 \\ 0 \cdot 6 & \pm 0 \cdot 40 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \cdot 0^{*} \pm 0 \cdot 42 \\ 1 \cdot 7^{*} \pm 0 \cdot 73 \end{array}$		$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 \cdot 3^{*} & \pm \ 0 \cdot 20 \\ 0 \cdot 6 & \pm \ 0 \cdot 29 \end{array}$
Sitting Height (cm.)	M F	$\begin{array}{c} 0{\cdot}8^{*}\pm 0{\cdot}38\\ 1{\cdot}3^{*}\pm 0{\cdot}45 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{ccc} 1 \cdot 0^{*} & \pm 0 \cdot 21 \\ -0 \cdot 3 & \pm 0 \cdot 29 \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{ccc} 1 \cdot 5^{*} & \pm \ 0 \cdot 29 \\ 1 \cdot 0 & \pm \ 0 \cdot 54 \end{array}$		$\begin{array}{ccc} 0 \cdot 9^{*} & \pm \ 0 \cdot 14 \\ 0 \cdot 7^{*} & \pm \ 0 \cdot 21 \end{array}$
Chest Girth (cm.)	M F	$\begin{array}{c} -0.3 \\ 1.9^{*} \pm 0.42 \\ \pm 0.55 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} -0.2 & \pm 0.24 \\ 1.6^{*} & \pm 0.36 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} 0.2 & \pm \ 0.33 \\ 2.6^{*} & \pm \ 0.67 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -0.8^{*}\pm0.34\\ 2.1^{*}\pm0.75\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{ccc} -0.2 & \pm \ 0.15 \\ 1.8^{\bullet} & \pm \ 0.26 \end{array}$
Chest Expansion (cm.)	M F		$\begin{array}{rrr} 0.5^{*} & \pm 0.07 \\ -0.4^{*} & \pm 0.09 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c} 0.6^{\bullet} \pm 0.10 \\ -0.2 \pm 0.17 \end{array} $		
Pulse Rate (beats per min.)	M F	$\begin{array}{ccc} -1\cdot 5 & \pm \ 0\cdot 76 \\ 0\cdot 3 & \pm \ 1\cdot 03 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrr} -3 \cdot 2^* & \pm \ 0 \cdot 43 \\ -1 \cdot 3^* & \pm \ 0 \cdot 66 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrr} -3 \cdot 0^{*} & \pm 0 \cdot 60 \\ -3 \cdot 1^{*} & \pm 1 \cdot 23 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -3 \cdot 1^* \pm 0 \cdot 61 \\ -0 \cdot 2 \ \pm 1 \cdot 40 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -2 \cdot 9^{*} \pm 0 \cdot 28 \\ -1 \cdot 1^{*} \pm 0 \cdot 47 \end{array}$
Systolic Blood Pressure (mm.Hg)	M F	$\begin{array}{r} -2 \cdot 7^* \pm 0 \cdot 95 \\ -5 \cdot 6^* \pm 1 \cdot 19 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrr} -2.7^{*} & \pm 0.53 \\ -7.2^{*} & \pm 0.77 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrr} -3.6^{\bullet} \pm 0.75 \\ -7.9^{\bullet} \pm 1.42 \end{array}$	$-6.1^{*} \pm 0.76 \\ -4.9^{*} \pm 1.62$	$\begin{array}{rrr} -3\cdot6^{*} & \pm \ 0\cdot35 \\ -6\cdot8^{*} & \pm \ 0\cdot55 \end{array}$
Diastolic Blood Pressure (mm.Hg)	M F	$ \begin{array}{c} -0.5 \\ -2.2^{*} \pm 0.92 \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} -0.2 \\ -2.7^{\bullet} \\ \pm 0.59 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{rrr} -0.04 & \pm 0.56 \\ -3.6^{\bullet} & \pm 1.09 \end{array}$		$\begin{array}{c} -0.4 \\ -2.8^{*} \\ \pm 0.43 \end{array} $
Vital Capacity (litres of air)	M F	${\begin{array}{c} 0.05 \pm 0.06 \\ 0.06 \pm 0.06 \end{array}}$	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{0.14*} \pm 0.03 \\ 0.03 \ \pm 0.04 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.17^{*} \pm 0.05 \\ 0.09 \ \pm 0.07 \end{array}$	${}^{-0.06 \pm 0.05}_{-0.02 \pm 0.08}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.09^{*} \pm 0.02 \\ 0.04 \ \pm 0.03 \end{array}$

TABLE VII COMPARISON OF TWO SERIES (LATER-EARLIER)

\* Difference significant at P < 0.05.

male age group. Table III suggests that male systolic pressure decreased with age whereas diastolic increased; this was also true of the females aged 20 years and over. Both means were significantly greater in males than in females of like age.

The correlation between blood pressure estimates and arm girth shown by some workers (e.g. Pickering, Roberts, and Sowry, 1954) could affect comparisons of pressures between age groups, but in this series it has been found that only males had different average arm girth between age groups. As the arm girth estimates are based on only the last 4 years of 1954–59, the blood pressure estimates for males have been re-examined for 1955–59. This analysis shows similar differences in systolic and diastolic blood pressure between the four male age groups. As no differences were found in blood pressure and arm girth estimates between the age groups for females, no further analysis was carried out on their data.

The correlation coefficients (r) between blood pressure and arm girth for males of all ages were +0.19 for systolic and +0.15 for diastolic; both coefficients were significantly greater than zero. Thus in our males there is some association between arm girth and blood pressure. An attempt to compare age groups using mean pressures adjusted to a common arm girth (*i.e.* covariance analysis) failed for systolic pressure because the relationship between blood pressure and arm girth was not similar in each age group, although it was for diastolic pressures. (The correlation coefficients between systolic pressure and arm girth varied between 0.11 and 0.32 in the age groups). The following multiple regression equations for males were obtained:

- Systolic Pressure  $y = 102 \cdot 3398 0 \cdot 3486x_1 + 1 \cdot 1732x_2$  (with a standard deviation from regression of 12 \cdot 16 mm.Hg)
- Diastolic Pressure  $y = 53 \cdot 5543 + 0 \cdot 1852x_1 + 0 \cdot 5521x_2$  (with a standard deviation from regression of 8.95 mm.Hg),

where y is the blood pressure in mm.Hg,  $x_1$  is the age in years, and  $x_2$  is the arm girth in cm.

Analysis of covariance of diastolic pressure showed that, after adjustment to a common arm girth value, although average diastolic blood pressure increased with age, the differences between age groups were not significant. The adjusted means were 71.0 mm.Hg in the 17-year-old group, 71.4 in the 18, 71.7 in the 19, and 72.4 in the 20 year and over group for arm girth of 26.25 cm.

Average systolic pressure in the later series was significantly lower than that in the earlier series at each age for each sex. The differences ranges from 2.7 to 7.9 mm.Hg and in general the differences between age groups were greater for males than for females. Females of the later series also had significantly lower mean diastolic pressure than females of a similar age in the earlier survey. Lower diastolic means in the later period also occurred among males, but they were significant only in the oldest age group. The differences in average blood pressure estimates observed between the two series may be explained by differences in arm girth, but as this was not measured before 1955 we cannot test the validity of this argument.

In the comparison of the other clinical measurements between the two series the following points are of interest:

- (1) For three age groups in males and for two in females the average pulse rate in the earlier series was significantly faster than that in the later series (Table VII). The average differences for males ranged between 1.5 and 3.2 beats per minute and for females between 0.3 and 3.1 beats per minute.
- (2) The only significant differences in vital capacity between the two series was found in male entrants aged 18 and 19 years, those of the later series having the greater average vital capacity by 0.1 and 0.2 litres respectively.
- (3) As there were no significant differences in distribution of visual acuity between the age groups for either males or females in either series, comparison has been made between the two series for each sex for all ages combined. The differences between the two series can be seen in Table V; the high  $\chi^2$  value is almost entirely due to the difference between the two series in the proportion of students with a recorded visual acuity of 6/9 or 6/12 in both eyes.
- (4) The percentage of males with colour blindness was found to be  $5 \cdot 5$  in the later series and  $6 \cdot 9$  in the earlier. The difference  $(1 \cdot 4 \pm 0 \cdot 74)$  was not significant.
- (5) Although the methods of assessing hearing acuity differed between the two series, comparison of the proportions of students with defective hearing has been made between them, for students of similar age and sex. This showed that, in all but one female age group, relatively more students in the earlier than in the later series had hearing defects, three of the differences between the series being significant. These differences may, of course, be due to the change in the source of sound as described earlier. The largest difference occurred in males aged 20 years and over, when the large proportion (11 per cent.) in the earlier series was almost certainly due to the inclusion of ex-service men.

#### SUMMARY

- (1) This report gives information on 2,405 males and 814 female undergraduates who were medically examined in their first year at the Queen's University of Belfast during the 5 years 1954-59. About 80 per cent. of the students were under 20 years of age (78 per cent. of the males and 88 per cent. of the females).
- (2) Average measurements by age group and sex are given for each of the physical measurements (Table II) and for each of the clinical measurements (Table IV). These Tables, together with the correlation coefficients (Table III) and the analyses of variance (Appendix A), show the age and sex patterns of the various measurements in the present series. The distribution by visual acuity is given in Table V and by hearing in Table VI.
- (3) Both systolic and diastolic blood pressures in males were found to be significantly associated with both the age and the arm girth of the student. Equations have been calculated to show the relationship existing between these variables for data collected in 1955–59.
- (4) Where possible, comparison of examination results in 1954–59 has been made with those in 1949–54 already reported by Johnston and others (1957). The results of these comparisons for the physical and clinical measurements are given in Table VII, the distribution by visual acuity in Table V and by hearing in Table VI.
- (5) In most age groups, the male students of the later series were found to have a significantly greater average height, sitting height, and chest expansion than males of similar age in the earlier series. Only in one age group was this true of the average height and sitting height of the female students. At each age the females of the later series had, on average, a relatively greater chest girth, but for two age groups the chest expansion was relatively smaller.
- (6) Average pulse rate was found to be significantly slower in the present series in three male and two female age groups. Systolic blood pressure was lower at each age in the later than in the earlier series for both male and female students; the females in the later series also had a significantly lower average diastolic blood pressure for each age group. Two significant differences in average vital capacity occurred

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between males of the two series, the average for the later series being the greater.

(7) The distributions of visual acuity were not similar between the two series for either male or female students (Table V). Relatively fewer males and females of the later series had a recorded visual acuity of 6/9 or 6/12 in both eyes than in the earlier. Although not significant, a smaller proportion of males in the later series had colour vision defects. Relatively fewer students had hearing defects in the later series than in the earlier. We are particularly indebted to Sister R. Mulholland, who assisted at the examinations, and to Miss I. Boyce of the Student Health Department. We also wish to thank Prof. E. A. Cheeseman, Mrs. D. Hutton, Mrs. J. J. McCabe, Mrs. L. McCreight, and Miss E. E. Thornbury of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine for their help in the preparation of this report.

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Serial No.VariableSexSource of VariationSum of Squaresd.f.1MaleMaleBetween yrs of entry Within yrs of entry $54 \cdot 02$ $34020 \cdot 17$ 4 $2400$ 2Age (yrs)FemaleBetween yrs of entry Within yrs of entry $34074 \cdot 19$ $2400$ $2404$ $F < 1; n_1 = 4; n_2 = 2400; P > 0 \cdot 20$	Mean Square 13 · 50 14 · 18 5 · 92 9 · 04					
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	13 · 50 14 · 18					
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	5·92 9·04					
$F < 1; n_1 = 4; n_2 = 2400; P > 0.20$ Between yrs of entry 23.69 4 Within yrs of entry 7315.27 809	5.92 9.04					
2 Age (yrs) Female Between yrs of entry 23.69 4 Within yrs of entry 7315.27 809	5.92 9.04					
Total 7338-96 813	1					
$F < 1; n_1 = 4; n_1 = 809; P > 0.20$						
Between sexes          511.77         1           Within sexes           41413.14         3217	511·77 12·87					
Total 41924-91 3218						
$F = 39.75; n_1 = 1; n_2 = 3217; P < 0.001$	$F = 39.75; n_1 = 1; n_2 = 3217; P < 0.001$					
Between age groups          1085 • 45         3           Within age groups          179045 • 80         2401	361 · 82 74 · 57					
Total 180131-25 2404						
$F = 4.85; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 2401; 0.01 > P > 0.00$	1					
5 Between age groups 389.61 3 Within age groups 55393.36 810	129 · 87 68 · 39					
Total 55782-97 813						
$F = 1.90; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 810; 0.20 > P > 0.10$	)					
6 Male Between age groups 1840.87 3 Within age groups 112062.98 2401	613·62 46·67					
Total 113903-85 2404						
Height (cm) $F = 13 \cdot 15; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 2401; P < 0.001$	1					
7 Between age groups 270.34 3 Within age groups 27535.50 810	90·11 33·99					
Total 27805-84 813						
$F = 2.65; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 810; P \simeq 0.05$	I					

## APPENDIX ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

## W. JOHNSTON AND J. D. MERRETT

APPENDIX. ANALYSI	S OF	VARIANCE	(continued)
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Serial No.	Variable	Sex	Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	d.f.	Mean Square		
8			Between age groups	872·29 65369·33	3 2401	290·76 27·23		
		Male	Total	66241 · 62	2404			
	Sitting Usight (and )		$F = 10.68; n_1 =$	$\overline{3; n_2 = 2401; P}$	< 0.001			
9	Sitting Height (cm.)		Between age groups	314·22 17255·01	3 810	104 · 74 21 · 30		
		Female	Total	17569 · 23	813			
			$F = 4.92; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 3; n_3 = 3; n_4 = 3; n_5 = 3; $	$P_2 = 810; 0.01 > 1$	P > 0.001			
10		Mala	Between age groups	946 · 62 66976 · 08	3 2401	315·54 27·90		
10		Male	Total	67922.70	2404			
	Chast Cirth (cm)		$F = 11 \cdot 31; n_1 = 3$	$n_2 = 2401; P < 0$	0.001			
	11	rl.	Between age groups	175 · 11 26769 · 90	810 810	58 · 37 33 · 05		
11		Female	Total	26945.01	813			
			$F = 1.77; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 810; 0.20 > P > 0.10$					
12 Chast Expansion (op.)		Male	Between age groups	66 · 86 7440 · 28	3 2401	$\begin{array}{r} 22 \cdot 29 \\ 3 \cdot 10 \end{array}$		
			Total	7507 · 14	2404			
		$F = 7 \cdot 19; n_1 =$	$3; n_2 = 2401; P <$	< 0.001				
12	13	Female	Between age groups	21 · 79 1589 · 92	810 810	7·26 1·96		
15			Total	1611.71	813			
			$F = 3.70; n_1 = 3;$	$n_2 = 810; 0.05 >$	P > 0.01			
		Male	Between age groups Within age groups	184·96 9911·46	2019 3	61 · 65 4 · 91		
14			Total	10096 • 42	2022			
	Arma Cirthe (arma)		$F = 12.56; n_1 = 3$	; $n_2 = 2019$ ; $P <$	0.001			
15	Arm Grui <sup>+</sup> (cm.)		Between age groups	$     \begin{array}{r}       15 \cdot 47 \\       2873 \cdot 41     \end{array} $	673 <sup>3</sup>	5 · 16 4 · 27		
15		remaie	Total	2888 · 88	676			
			$F = 1 \cdot 21; n_1 =$	$= 3; n_2 = 673; P >$	> 0.20			
16		Mala	Between age groups	$1633 \cdot 03 \\ 233452 \cdot 26$	3 2401	544 · 34 97 · 23		
10		Wate	Total	235085 · 29	2404			
	Pulse Rate (heats par min )		$F = 5 \cdot 60; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 3$	$_{2} = 2401; 0.01 >$	P > 0.00	)1		
17	i une rate (beats per min.)	Famala	Between age groups	386.03 85680.51	3 810	128 · 68 105 · 78		
1/		Female	Total	86066 • 54	813			
			$F=1\cdot 22; n_1=$	$3; n_2 = 810; P >$	> 0.20			

\* Last 4 years of 5-year period.

## MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS IN N. IRELAND 83

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Serial No.	Variable	Sex	Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	d.f.	Mean Square
18	Systolic Blood Pressure (mm.Hg)	Male	Between age groups	4655.64 358555.86	3 2401	1551 · 88 149 · 34
			Total	363211 · 50	2404	
			$F = 10.39; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 2401; P < 0.001$			
19		Female	Between age groups	157·77 110007·50	810 810	52·59 135·81
			Total	110165 · 27	813	
			$F < 1; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 810; P > 0.20$			
20	- Diastolic Blood Pressure (mm.Hg)	Male	Between age groups	1232·49 195214·14	3 2401	410·83 81·31
			Total	196446.63	2404	
			$F = 5.05; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 2401; 0.01 > P > 0.001$			
21		Female	Between age groups	62 · 26 57253 · 62	810 810	20·75 70·68
			Total	57315.88	813	
			$F < 1; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 810; P > 0.20$			
22	Vital Capacity (litres of air)	Male	Between age groups	46·14 1125·90	3 2401	15·38 0·47
			Total	1172.04	2404	
			$F = 32.79; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 2401; P < 0.001$			
23		Female	Between age groups Within age groups	3·47 207·60	810 810	1 · 16 0 · 26
			Total	211.07	813	
			$F = 4.51; n_1 = 3; n_2 = 810; 0.05 > P > 0.01$			

### APPENDIX. ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE (continued)