

The four-year annual medical survey of the people of Rongelap Atoll, Marshall Islands, who were exposed to radioactive fallout in March, 1954 was completed in March, 1958. An 18 man medical team was transported to Rongelap by Navy LST for the examinations.

Complete history and physical examinations, including growth and development studies in the children, hematological examinations, ova and parasite survey, and whole body gamma spectroscopy for body burden of isotopes were carried out. The data has not yet been thoroughly analyzed, and only a few brief preliminary statements can be made at this time in regard to the latest examinations.

The people were found to be generally in good health and their nutrition satisfactory. A few residual changes were still present in the skin of some people at the former sites of more severe beta burns. But these changes were non-symptomatic and characterized only by mild atrophy, scarring, and pigment aberrations. No evidence of any pre-malignant or malignant changes have been seen. Since regrowth of hair, no further evidence of epilation have been noted. Except for the skin changes there have been no outward evidence of any radiation effects. There have been no symptoms or diseases that could be related to radiation effects. The incidence of diseases was found to be about the same in the irradiated as in the unirradiated Marshallese people used for comparison.

There have been three deaths in the irradiated group. In no case could the cause of death be associated with radiation effects. This incidence of death appears to be about the same as in unexposed Marshallese people.

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of March, 1957 consisted mainly of Cs<sup>137</sup>, Co<sup>144</sup> - Pz<sup>144</sup> and Sr<sup>90</sup> in amounts far below the accepted tolerance levels. The present body burden appears to be slightly increased above last year due to slight environmental con-

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the steel room to reobtain this data during May.

The people appear quite happy on their home island of Rongelap. They are most pleased with the new village with its fine homes, community buildings, water supply, etc. They seem to be making an excellent adjustment.

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