ARTICLES, PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS
OF ACTUARIAL INTEREST

SHORT-TERM PREDICTION OF HIV INFECTION AND AIDS
IN ENGLAND AND WALES
(H.M.S.O.—ISBN 0 11 321191 0)
(December 1988)

Report of a working group (chaired by Sir David Cox and with Professor A. D. Wilkie, F.I.A. as a member) charged with reporting to the Chief Medical Officer on predictions for a 2–5 year period. A number of mathematical models are reviewed and on certain assumptions regarding definition, medical developments, under-reporting and behavioural change, certain conclusions are reached. In particular the number infected with HIV was probably between 20,000 and 50,000 at the end of 1987, and the number of new cases of AIDS reported may reach 2,500 to 5,000 in 1992: there is some evidence that the monthly number of new cases of AIDS is increasing less rapidly than before.

POPULATION STUDIES

42.3

WOODS, R. I. et al. The Causes of Rapid Infant Mortality Decline in England and Wales, 1861–1921, Part I. Part I presents a detailed analysis by time space (especially urban/rural) and social class.

KANNISTO, V. On the Survival of Centenarians and the Span of Life. Data on centenarians are assembled from 17 countries and tested for reliability. Some 60,000 deaths (with 146,000 years of exposure to risk) are analysed by the method of extinct generations, extended to living cohorts. The risk of dying continues to rise with age, and the survival of centenarians is improving in some countries. The theory of natural selection is criticized. Survivors beyond 108 (men) and 110 (women) are rarely found.

43.1

ALTER, G., and RILEY, J. C. Frailty, Sickness and Death: Models of Morbidity and Mortality in Historical Populations. Friendly Society data from nineteenth-century England show increases in the prevalence of sickness at all adult ages at the same time that death rates were falling. Theoretical models are presented showing how average health may worsen if the relatively frail survive. Modern medical technology reduces both the probability of sickness and the duration and severity of illness.

WOODS, R. I. et al. The Causes of Rapid Infant Mortality Decline in England and Wales, 1861–1921, Part II. Contemporaries' approaches are considered, and an interpretation offered in terms of a prior fertility decline, improvements in the quality of milk, midwives, ante/post natal care and in female education generally.