

**TWIN STUDIES IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES**

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Dept. of Anthropology, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc.

## The Genetic Control of Blood Pressure under Experimental Stress

**R. H. Osborne**

Different forms of cardiovascular disease, including hypertension, give evidence that heredity is a predisposing factor. Yet, family and twin studies of blood pressure have consistently given inconclusive results. In earlier twin studies, Mathers et al (1961) and Osborne et al (1963) presented evidence that blood pressure liability rather than the measured levels of the blood pressure may constitute the critical manifestation of the genetic variable to be investigated.

A twin study has been conducted in which blood pressure measurements were obtained under basal conditions and following experimental stress. The results of this study and comparisons to the earlier studies will be presented.

### References

- MATHERS J. A. L., OSBORNE R. H., DEGEORGE F. V. (1961). Studies of blood pressure, heart rate, and the electrocardiogram in adult twins. *Amer. Heart J.*, **62**: 634-642.
- OSBORNE R. H., DEGEORGE F. V., MATHERS J. A. L. (1963). The variability of blood pressure: basal and casual measurements in adult twins. *Amer. Heart J.*, **66**: 176-183.

Prof. R. H. OSBORNE, Dept. of Anthropology, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisc. 53706, USA.