

The work of the local club in research. How researchers can obtain increased participation for their work. Locals prime concern of raising twins to be individuals while respecting the bonds and blessings of twinning.

The bridge of State Mothers of Twins Clubs which goes across the country. Those States that are formed, and those interested in starting a State Mothers of Twins Club, including Canada. The States forming this bridge number 20 and represent approximately 303 clubs with over 9000 members. Research interest and enthusiasm kindled at State conventions.

The National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. How its membership is formed from 44 States representing 224 clubs and over 8000 members. The work of National with doctors, scientists, and researchers. Research speakers at national conventions.

How researchers can contact Mothers of Twins Clubs. The great interest by Mothers of Twins Clubs for new research. A partial listing of research completed or being done at the present time. A sampling of Canadian research. Listing of groups for researchers to contact.

The personal growth of mothers of twins through the threefold cord.

How Twin/Lines, USA's only personal paper for MOT and MOTC, provides the vital link of communication for mothers of twins and twin clubs. Why Twin/Lines is able to be at the Twin Congress and what we hope to bring back to share with mothers of twins and twin clubs everywhere.

Mrs. Joyce E. Maxey, 910 26th Street, Marion, Iowa 52302, USA

A DREAM COME TRUE: THE ILLINOIS ORGANIZATION OF MOTHERS OF TWINS CLUBS

JANE DOJUTREK

The Illinois Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA

On 20 October 1962, after a year of contacting mothers of twins and mothers of twins clubs throughout Illinois, IOMOTC became a reality for a mother of identical

twin girls. At that time, there were 16 charter clubs that joined and 2 members-at-large. IOMOTC now boasts a membership of 27 clubs and 1 member-at-large for a total of 556 members and a voluntary executive board of 24 officers and chairwomen. As was then and still is, the purpose of IOMOTC is to join together, socially and educationally, member clubs throughout the State of Illinois for the purpose of exchanging information pertaining to the rearing, development, and recognition of the individuality of twins as may be forthcoming from parents, doctors, educators, and other appropriate sources.

Through our prenatal, infancy, toddler, and now pre-teen years, we have accomplished much with regard to research, philanthropic work and, in general, have strengthened the bond of fellowship between mothers of multiple births throughout the United States. Various information and news is exchanged among member clubs through a bimonthly newsletter, a yearbook and a summer and winter packet publication. A state library holds a wealth of information regarding multiple births and club procedures for any member or club wanting its data.

All member clubs are self-governing. Each fall we gather for a Statewide convention, which is held in different cities throughout the State and therefore each club being given a chance to be a hostess. As our slogan "Strength Through Unity" signifies, we anticipate that this First International Congress of Twin Studies will bring a stronger bond of unity between the lay and professional person with regard to multiple births.

Mrs. Jane Dojutrek, 8241 W. Berwyn, Chicago, Illinois 60656, USA

SUPERTWIN RECORD ("BITS 'BOUT MULTIPLES")

HELEN KIRK LAUVE

Galveston, Texas, USA

A fascinating yet productive hobby that began with only details of the delivery of quadruplets by the author's physician-employer in Galveston, Texas, is presented. Files are authentic but by no means inter-

nationally complete. Unfortunately, not all multiple births are recorded in medical literature and some are never even registered as births due to condition of fetuses at birth. To establish a correct and definite ratio of the incidence of twins, triplets, quadruplets, and higher births to single births, all births would have to be recorded. Over a period of thirty-five years it is felt that the author's "Bits 'bout Multiples" are the most complete, comprehensive (to lay persons), and authentic files of their type. For quick reference, a card file indicates Family name, Number in birth, Date of birth, Parents' names, Physician's names and Place of birth (Country, City, Hospital). Statistical information as to a number of (for example) quadruplets born in a nominal year, a particular country, state or city, may rapidly be found. This may be divided into sex distribution of set, MZ or DZ, number surviving, etc. Files include data on twins, conjoined twins, triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets, sextuplets, septuplets, octuplets, nontuplets, decuplets, and a few higher recorded births. Printed articles, books, souvenirs, photos, and correspondence are included.

Research includes personal contact with many multiples, tape recordings of visits, as well as preparation of statistical information for persons throughout the world which gives great opportunity to delve and compile.

Ms. Helen Kirk Lauve, P.O. Box 254, Galveston, Texas 77550, USA

TWIN STUDIES, TWIN CARE, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

LUIGI GEDDA, PAOLO PARISI

The Gregor Mendel Institute of Medical Genetics and Twin Research, Rome, Italy
The Foundation of the Luigi Gedda Institute, Jerusalem, Israel

Although a number of difficulties at various levels have seriously interfered with its organization, the First International Congress of Twin Studies could assemble in Rome the representatives of 27 countries to work on a 6-day program with over 120 titles. This program appears to be of interest, not only to scientists specifically dealing with

twin studies, but to human and medical geneticists in general (and especially behavior geneticists), as well as to psychologists and psychiatrists, obstetricians and gynecologists, neonatologists and pediatricians, epidemiologists, and general biologists, demographers, statisticians, mathematicians, etc. Moreover, not only leading representatives of all these branches have convened in Rome from all over the world, but representatives of twin organizations have also come. It seems that, far from becoming obsolete, as its critics forecasted some twenty years ago, twin research has progressed and expanded all over traditional branches of study and new areas of application.

On the other hand, as two sessions of the Congress and the interest of Twin Clubs and Mothers of Twins Clubs clearly show, twin studies and consequent social action are needed to face the problems related to multiple pregnancy as a high-risk pregnancy, to the twin postnatal development, to the twin psychology.

Twin research has come of age and is eventually responsible for the health and welfare of a share of the general population that, when twins are considered with their families, accounts for 5-10%. It therefore seems to be high time that it be supported by an appropriate organization.

An international association or a similar body, should be established. Regular Congresses should be convened every three-four years. International Directories of twin research workers and of twin groups, associations, registers, and any other organization where twins may be available for research purposes, should be published. Newsletters should be edited and circulated to promote better information and cooperation, avoid overlapping research work, and stimulate research integration. Special Committees should be formed to work on such problems as multiple pregnancy as a high-risk pregnancy, twin neonatology and pediatrics, twin psychology and education, etc., and the deliberations should be circulated.

It is suggested that a Working Group be appointed by the assembly in order to study these and other problems and produce drafts of deliberations to be discussed at the Closing Session.

Prof. Luigi Gedda, Istituto Mendel, Piazza Galeno 5, 00161 Roma, Italy