
My dear Lawrence,

I am enclosing a short note which I hope may be the kind of thing you want, on the new goitre series. It is nice of you to think of getting me to write something, for I am sure you would have done it as well or better yourself, and indeed the whole work is yours, so there is no need, and in my opinion not much propriety in adding my name to anything you publish. Anyway, I am sending all the material along so that it can be kept together if further discussion seems desirable.

Yours sincerely,
In relation to the families of the 90 cases of exophthalmic goitre published in 1945 attention was called to the contrast afforded by finding 16 siblings out of 160 showing exophthalmic goitre, whereas only one parent in 180 was similarly affected. This was strongly suggestive of a recessive factor acting in these exophthalmic cases.

With the present series of 100 families based on toxic nodular goitre the corresponding numbers are 4 siblings and one parent, whereas 100 control cases give only one sister and no parent. It is clear that these two series differ materially in respect of evidence for recognisable heredity from the series previously reported for exophthalmic goitre. There is, indeed, if we contrast the toxic nodular goitre families of our present series with the controls, a materially heavier incidence of goitres of all kinds in their families, the totals recorded amounting to 46 in the one series and only 12 in the other. Since, however, exogenic causes contributing to the occurrence of goitres are likely to affect simultaneously different members of the same family and others living in closely similar environmental conditions, it should not be thought that this contrast supplies unequivocal evidence for heritable factors favouring toxic
nodular goitre, though the existence of such factors tending to enhance the effects of unfavourable environment is not a priori improbable nor contradicted by the data.

The incidence of 28 cases containing goitres of all kinds among the siblings to 9 cases among the parents is, in contrast with the findings for exophthalmic goitre, insufficient to suggest that any large proportion of the cases are largely influenced by recessive inheritance, though certainly this cannot be excluded for a minority.