

Study Notes Aftereffects In Bikini Fallout Victims

CHICAGO, May 7 (UPI)—A medical report said today that fallout victims at the Bikini atomic tests suffered more miscarriages and a slower growth rate than normal during later years.

The report also said the victims' general health and death rate have been about the same as for Bikini residents who were not present at the time of the 1954 tests.

It said no definite radiation effects were noted on birth rate, aging, leukemia, malignancy or genotype.

Dr. Robert A. Conard, of Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y., and Arobat Hicking, of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,

Saipan, wrote on their findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

They studied the effects of 32 Marshall Islands residents 10 years after they were accidentally exposed to fallout radiation. They also surveyed a group of relatives who were not on Rongelap Island at the time of the detonation and who later returned.

Benign thyroid nodules were removed from three teen-age Rongelap girls 10 years after exposure, they said. No nodules were detected in 75 unexposed children. This year, three more cases of nodules have appeared.

The report said other possible residual radiation effects included slight retardation of statural growth and bone maturation in boys exposed at less than five years of age; greater incidence of miscarriages in exposed women during the first four years; incomplete recovery of some peripheral blood elements; and increased nevus-like (skin growth) lesions in previous beta radiation skin burn areas.

The report said there were 13 miscarriages in 32 births among the exposed women, and only 8 in 38 births among the unexposed women.