3. The frequency of the common cold showed relatively little change with age. The common cold was reported to have occurred more frequently in the high dustfall area than in the low dustfall area for each group, the excess in frequency increasing from 17 per cent for persons under 20 years of age to 54 per cent for persons 55 years of age and over. This is shown graphically in figure 3. For all ages combined, the percentage of persons for whom a common cold was reported was 19.9 in the low dustfall area and 25.6 in the high dustfall area. The difference, 5.7 per cent, between these two rates is statistically significant. A difference of such magnitude or larger in samples of the size used in this study could have occurred by chance alone only once in 2,000 trials.

Influence of Occupation.—Table 4 was prepared to show the influence that occupation, considered by broad groups, had on the frequency of reported common colds. Within each of the areas the differences were relatively small except in the school age group, in which there was an appreciably lower reported frequency. However, again the common cold consistently shows a greater reported frequency in the high dustfall area than in the low dustfall area for each occupational group.

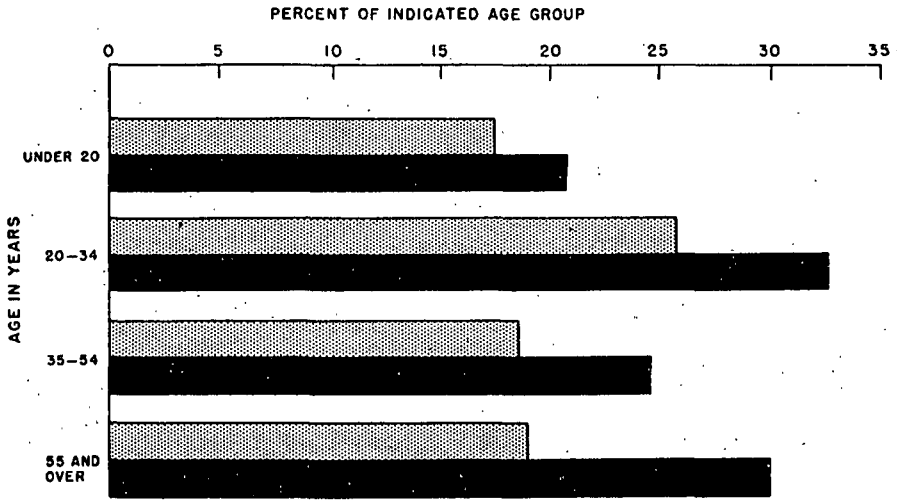

Fig. 3.—The frequency of the common cold as found for age groups in the low dustfall and high dustfall areas. The bars represent the percentages of the age group reporting colds occurring within the past 30 days. Light stippling represents the low dustfall area; black, the high dustfall area.

Influence of Week of Survey.—It is again to be noted that the survey was made during the four week period covering the last three weeks of September and the first week of October 1950. Therefore, the "previous" 30 day period, about which inquiry was made as to the occurrence of acute illness, extended through the late summer and early fall. Because cold frequency varies with the season of the year, it was considered useful to test whether or not that factor had a role in the present instance.

Table 5 shows the frequency of reported common colds by week of study. It will be noted from this table that with one minor exception there is the expected progressive seasonal increase in common cold frequency from the first through the fourth week of the survey period. However, of greater significance is the indication that the frequency in the high dustfall area was consistently greater than in the low dustfall area for each of the weekly periods during which the data were collected.