SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In the present work an attempt has been made to find out the variation in menstrual cycle among the Bengalee females and its effect on differential fertility.

For the above mentioned purpose data were collected from two groups of female population of West Bengal, urban (768) and rural (200). The urban group comprised of the caste Hindu females of Calcutta and the rural group comprised the Lodha females, a scheduled tribe, living in the district of Midnapur.

Information with regard on age at menarche, age at marriage, cycle length, marriage conception interval, pregnancy outcome were collected from each of them. Anthropometric measurements were obtained from each of them.

Information regarding the biological details were gathered by narrative method, through verification and follow up study. The anthropometric measurements were taken following the standard anthropometric technique.

It was evident from the analysis of the data.

1. The mean ages at menarche of the urban unmarried girls, urban married females and rural married
females were 12.81 ± 0.06 years, 13.51 ± 0.07 years and 12.80 ± 0.09 years respectively.

2. Secular trend in menarcheal age among the city girls was perceptable. Menarcheal age of Bengalee girls of Calcutta was found to be gradually going down at the rate of 5-7 days per annum.

3. The mean age at marriage of urban females when classified into groups - married before menarche, married after menarche was found to be 12.15 ± 0.27 years, 19.92 ± 0.19 years respectively. Compared to the above mean age at marriage of rural females was found to be 9.90 ± 0.14 years.

4. The mean cycle length of the rural married females was found to be 32.49 ± 0.33 days, and it was found that the above value was significantly longer than those of the urban married (30.71 ± 0.22 days) and urban unmarried (30.56 ± 0.21 days) females.

5. 40+ days cycle was found to be occurring in the frequencies of 2.01%, 4.47% and 7.21% among the urban unmarried, urban married and rural females respectively.

6. Interrelationship between the cycle length and Rohrer's Index was assessed by the calculation of coefficient of correlations. It was observed that there existed a very low negative correlation between the above mentioned two characters.
7. Influence of cycle length in marriage conception interval was quite apparent. It was found that marriage conception interval was delayed in the female with longer menstrual cycle.

8. The rural-urban difference in mean of pregnancy outcome was found to be statistically significant.

It was observed that there existed some influence of cycle length on the pregnancy outcome of the female.

It can be concluded from the above mentioned findings that a secular trend is playing a significant role with regard to age at menarche among the city girls and causing a gradual decrease of age at menarche.

The variability in cycle length appears to be exerting some influence on fertility of human female. The influence of cycle length is apparent in marriage conception interval as well as in pregnancy outcome.