The objectives of the present study and what inspired me to undertake an investigation into the vital processes of life have been explained in detail in Chapter 1. All of them need not be recounted here. However, it needs to be emphasised that the type of analysis contemplated in this study cannot be undertaken for the country at large. Since India is a vast subcontinent, the quantity and quality of data required for this kind of analysis will probably never be made available for the whole country, even if the statistical machinery and organisation be strengthened and perfected. Such a study therefore, by its sheer nature, is bound to be localised and put through on a sample basis. However, it is not a tall claim to expect that it will throw good light on the general pattern of the vital processes of life in the country at large. After all, in a country where cultural, social and historical unity exists and where in other respects, there is unity even in diversity, the general behaviour of fertility and mortality is not likely to deviate much in different parts of the country. Hence the general pattern of fertility and mortality
in the city can be taken to possess a fair measure of representativeness.

What remains then is the pleasant job of acknowledgements.

The first and foremost in the batch of personalities to whom I owe a debt of deep gratitude is Shri. D.R. Sanant, M.A., formerly Principal, Sir K.P. College of Commerce, Surat and now University Professor of Commerce, Sardar V.P. University, Vallabhbh Vidya Nagar, who gave me valuable help and guidance and who gave me encouragement and inspiration from time to time in the execution of this project. It is with pleasure that I place on record my sincere gratefulness to him.

It was really my good fortune that in the execution of this work, I could secure guidance from Prof. D.R. Gadgil, Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona. Prof. Gadgil even in the midst of his busy hours, was accessible to me whenever any subtle point of theory troubled me. It is a pleasure to express my gratefulness to him.

The study would have suffered materially but for many discussions which I had with Prof. N.V. Sovani, Prof. V.M. Dandekar and Shri. D.P. Apte of the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona. These are the scholars who have done
similar work in the field. My discussions with them have helped me to clarify some of the obscure points in the modern concepts of fertility and in their theoretical formulation and practical operation. I have greatly benefitted by their advice and help. I take this opportunity of expressing my hearty thanks to them.

I must also thank the President and the Chief Officer, Surat Borough Municipality, Surat, for making available to me all the records of vital statistics collected through the municipal agencies.

To many Indian and Western demographers, I owe a debt. Upon them perhaps, I have drawn a good deal.

However, the errors that remain are mine own. I completely absolve all the dignitaries referred to above, even from an indirect responsibility in the work. The writer alone should be held responsible for the limitations and shortcomings of this work, if any.

6th December, 1959. (K.M.Talati)