

OBSERVATIONS relative to the number of births of the two sexes*

Poisson

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There results from the preceding table, that during the seven years from 1817 to 1823, there was born in France 3458965 boys and 3246813 girls, by comprehending in this number, the two departments which have been evaluated by the calculation in 1823.

The ratio of the first number to the second is very nearly equal to $\frac{16}{15}$, that is the births of the boys have exceeded by one fifteenth those of the girls. If one takes this ratio for each of the seven years, one finds that it is very nearly constant: its greatest value has been $\frac{15}{14}$, and the least $\frac{17}{16}$.

One supposes commonly that the ratio of the masculine births to the feminine births, is equal to $\frac{22}{21}$, this which differs sensibly from $\frac{16}{15}$; but this last ratio is most worthy of confidence, because it is concluded from more than six million of births of two sexes, a number quite superior to those that one has employed until now for the determination of this element.

In order to know if the climate influences over the ratio of which there is concern, one has considered separately about thirty departments, the southernmost of France. The births in these departments, from 1817 to 1823, have been 971819 boys and 910775 girls: the ratio of the first number to the second is the one of 16 to 15, as for France entire; and by calculating it in particular for each of the seven years, one finds also that it is not much varied, its extreme limits being $\frac{14}{13}$ and $\frac{17}{16}$. This result persuades to conclude that the superiority of births of boys over those of girls, depends not on the climate, in a sensible manner.

The births of native infants of the two sexes appear to deviate from the ratio of 16 to 15. From 1817 to 1823, these births, in all France, have been 235951 boys and 224440 girls; the ratio of the first number to the second differs little from that of 20 and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 19 and $\frac{1}{2}$; this which would seem to indicate that in this class of infants, the births of the girls approach more those of the boys than in the ordinary case.

In these same seven years, there is arrived twelve times that the annual births of the girls have exceeded those of the boys in some departments, namely: one time in the *Ardennes*, two times in *Cher*, two times in *Corse*, one time in *Hérault*, one time in *Isère*, two times in *Marne*, one time in *Rhône* and two times in *Yonne*.

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