

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF WORK

Rheumatic heart disease is a part of the rheumatic fever and chronic rheumatic heart disease is the sequela of this (Ibrahim, 1960).

Approximately two thirds of all patients who have rheumatic fever in childhood eventually develop chronic rheumatic heart disease (Hall, 1961).

In Egypt, rheumatic fever still stands as one of the major pediatric problems causing a high rate of morbidity and mortality in pediatric age group (Kamel et al., 1973).

It is noteworthy that our knowledge of incidence and prevalence of heart diseases in Egypt is remarkably deficient (Hammam et al., 1971).

This work aimed at obtaining the prevalence rate of rheumatic heart disease among primary school children in Benha. This will help to express the magnitude of the disease as a common health problem which incapacitates

a large sector of populations. Also prevalence rates are essential for planning organization of national medical care for rheumatic heart disease.