Preamble
This is the second edition of no. (5) above. The authorship remains the same, however some authors have acquired additional qualifications, and some have changed institutions. As explained in the preface (page x), chapters 6 (Follow-up studies, now, Volunteers, controls, placebos and questionnaires), 15 (Diseases of the joints) and 18 (Tropical diseases) have been rewritten, and substantial alterations have been made in other chapters; the references throughout have been brought up to date.

Aims
In the five years since the first edition it has become clear that we are at the beginning of a revolution in methods of acquiring, processing and retrieving data as a result of the introduction of computers and other electronic devices. These methods are already being applied to the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of disease and they are certain to be used in the measurement of the hereditary component of illnesses, the discovering of adverse reactions to drugs, and a host of other purposes. No apology is therefore necessary for issuing a second edition of a book which may, we hope, continue to serve as a primer for such studies (Preface, pages x and xi).

Contents (xi+367 pages)
List of contributors
Preface to the second edition (LJ Witts)
Part I: Methods
  Introduction (LJ Witts)
  1) General principles and methods (NTJ Bailey, LJ Witts)
  2) Diagnosis in group research (CM Fletcher, PD Oldham)
     Bibliography on observer error and variation
  3) Prevalence surveys (CM Fletcher, PD Oldham)
  4) Retrospective and prospective studies (R Doll)
  5) Follow-up studies (SC Truelove)
  6) Volunteers, controls, placebos and questionnaires in clinical trials (EM Glaser)
  7) Prophylactic trials (J Knowelden)
  8) Therapeutic trials (SC Truelove)
  9) Operational research (NTJ Bailey)
Part II: Applications
  10) Genetics (AC Allison)
  11) The assessment of nutriture (HM Sinclair)
  12) Child development and health (A Stewart, R Acheson)
  13) Chest diseases (CM Fletcher, VH Springett)
  14) Cardiovascular diseases (B Bronte-Stewart, GW Pickering)
  15) Diseases of the joints (JS Lawrence)
  16) Mental illness (GM Carstairs)
17) Cancer (R Doll)
18) Tropical diseases (AW Woodruff).

Index

Authors
The Editor is LJ Witts CBE, MA, MD, ScD, FRCP (Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford. The contributors are Roy M Acheson MA, DM, ScD, MRCP (Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine, Yale University); Anthony Clifford Allison MA, DPhil, BM (Member of the scientific staff, Medical Research Council, National Institute for Medical Research, London); Norman TJ Bailey MA, DSc (Reader in Biometry, University of Oxford); B Bronte-Stewart MD, MRCP, MRCPGlas (Director, Atheroma Research Unit, Medical Research Council, and Honorary Consultant, Western Infirmary, Glasgow); GM Carstairs MA, MD, FRCPE, DPM (Professor of Psychological Medicine, University of Edinburgh); Richard Doll OBE, MD, DSc, FRCP (Director, Medical Research Council Statistical Research Unit, and Lecturer in Epidemiology, University College Hospital Medical School, London, and Honorary Associate Physician, Central Middlesex Hospital, London); CM Fletcher CBE, MA, MD, FRCP (Reader in Clinical Epidemiology, Postgraduate Medical School of London, and Physician, Hammersmith Hospital, London); Eric Michael Glaser MC, MD, PhD, MRCP (Director of the Evans Medical Research Laboratories, Liverpool); John Knowelden MD, DPH, JP (Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, University of Sheffield); John Lawrence MD, MRCP (Director of the Empire Rheumatism Council Field Unit, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Manchester); PD Oldham MA, FSS (Statistician, Pneumoconiosis Research Unit, Medical Research Council, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Glamorgan, Wales); Sir George Pickering MA, MD, DSc, FRCP, FACP, FRS (Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford); HM Sinclair MA, DM, FRCP (Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford); VH Springett MD, FRCP (Medical Director, Birmingham Chest Services, and Lecturer in Social Medicine, University of Birmingham, Birmingham); Alice M Stewart MA, FRCP (Reader in Social Medicine, University of Oxford); SC Truelove MA, MD, FRCP (Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford); and, AW Woodruff MD, PhD, FRCP, FRCPE, DTM&H, (Wellcome Professor of Clinical Tropical Medicine, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Physician, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London).