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Among the subjects dealt with are the following: The control of infectious diseases, tuberculosis, maternity and child welfare, medical inspection in schools, and national health insurance.

The opposition which is provoked by those who propose reforms, is well brought out by the author in his survey of the period during which the movement grew. The book ends with chapters on Chadwick, Simon, Florence Nightingale, Galton, and Shaftesbury. Referring to Galton, the author states that "he stands apart from the great Victorian sanitarians; alone in appreciating the importance of hereditary endowment as a factor in health; alone in perceiving that environmental hygiene was not sufficient."

The book should be of great assistance to Medical Officers of Health and to those who are connected in any way with the social services.

F. S. GRIMSTON.

"X-Ray." *Love—An Outspoken Guide to Happy Marriage.* London, 1932. The C. W. Daniel Co. Pp. 55. Price: Paper, 1s., cloth 2s.

THIS should prove a most useful guide to young married people and those about to be married, not only in regard to their relation to each other, but particularly in their relation to, and upbringing of, their children. It never mentions eugenics specifically, but in its insistence upon choosing the right mate and in setting before young people a high ideal of parenthood it is obvious that, if such advice be followed, neither mate nor offspring are likely to prove dysgenic.

The reader is frequently urged to increase his knowledge on various points and to consult the many good books which have been written recently for his guidance. It would certainly add to the value of this excellent little book to have a bibliography at the end of each chapter.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

PAMPHLETS

A Secular Encyclical on Humanizing Finance and Revitalizing Humanity. W. S. Bromhead. Pp. 46.

IN this little pamphlet the author represents the ideas he developed in *Human Capitalization* as a sort of panacea of our social ills. The worker is to capitalize his salary at 5 per cent., and the capital thus created will do away with the friction between the capital and labour, while a 'Wisbian' currency will refund to parents the cost of educating children and credit children with a capital that anticipates their future earning capacity. In this way the author hopes to reverse the evil differential birth rate from which civilized societies are now suffering. It is to be feared, however, that even if the scheme can meet the difficulties created by bad trade and bad personnel the unreasoning conservatism of *all* our politicians will refuse to take his proposals seriously.

F. C. S. SCHILLER.

On the Genetic Significance of Hemilateral Asymmetry in the Vertebrate Organism. By C. J. Bond. (No. 1, William Withering Lectures, 1932.) London, 1932. H. K. Lewis. Pp. 38. Price 2s. 6d.

IN this lecture Mr. C. J. Bond gives a most interesting account of the variations which occur from the typical bilateral symmetry of vertebrates. He does not merely refer to such well-known phenomena as gynandromorphs, but deals more with such cases of asymmetry as are found in the horns of cattle and the colour pattern in dogs and guinea pigs. He points out that many of these cases of asymmetry are inherited and offers various suggestions as to the explanation of the phenomenon. Mr. Bond has collected a most interesting series of facts which well demand more intensive investigation.

C. C. HENTSCHEL.

PERIODICALS

American Journal of Physical Anthropology

April-June, 1932, Vol. 16, Part IV.—M. S. Goldstein and H. B. Collins, Jr., give, separately, studies of caries in Eskimo teeth. Goldstein found the percentage of subjects affected varied from 15·4 on St. Lawrence and Punuk Islands down to less than 3 per cent. in Greenland, the least carious of all regions of the world. The first, second, and third molars in both sexes were increasingly affected by caries in the order given. The mandibular molars are very worn, the first more than the second, the second more than the third. Collins found as many as 26·7 per cent. of his sample of Alaskan Eskimo had one or more carious teeth and 15·5 per cent. had crowded teeth; the two affections went together and were commonest among Eskimo living at or near white settlements. The trouble was commonest in adolescents, and commoner in males than in females, and in the lower jaw than in the upper.

A. Hrdlička has measured 4,432 humeri to set up a standard for the white races who, in strength of the shaft, surpass the American-Indian, but are inferior to the negro. The bone is flatter in the Indian than in the other two. Whites have shorter fore-arms than negroes and Indians, while the proportion of humerus to femur is greater in whites and Indians than in negroes, who have the femur relatively long.

F. G. Benedict gives an illustrated account of observations on the racial element in human metabolism. Chinese and Japanese women of college age in U.S.A. show a much lower metabolism than do Americans. Male Maya have a higher metabolism than most white men. South Indian women have lower metabolism than white women, and Australian aboriginals a lower metabolism than whites.

J. G. Carter gives results of measurements of 350 Pembroke college women, of whom 109 were "old Americans," that is persons whose parents and grandparents were all born in U.S.A., and of 204 college women from Tennessee of whom 161 were old Americans. The old Americans in both cases were very similar, the southern group having the lower variability. The students' records suggested that there is much more Scottish-Irish ancestry in the south.

July-September, 1932, Vol. 17, Part I.—R. A. Miller discusses the evolution of the shoulder and arm in Primates and argues for a marked trend towards increase of mobility of the limb. The thorax is progressively widened and the scapulæ are displaced laterally until the glenoid fossa faces outwards. The head of the humerus is likewise progressively turned inward. This combination of changes gives a joint capable of an almost universal range of movement. Man gives evidence of descent from an arboreal pro-anthropoid stock with mobile shoulder and fore-arm joints (the gibbon has this). From this primate stem the modern apes diverged in the direction of habits of arboreal brachiation, while mankind emphasized the development of the hind limb and the vertebral column for terrestrial bipedism, thus leaving the shoulder and arm free to utilize in varied ways their inherited mobility.

G. J. Connolly, giving results of measurements of brains of anthropoid apes, confirms established views and shows that the brains of young apes have relatively high values of their dimensions: that the brains of species of gibbon vary greatly, but are always smaller than those of other apes; and that in the adult orangs the proportion of brain-weight to body-weight is higher in the female than in the male. The proportion of brain to body is higher in the chimpanzee than in the orang.

E. M. Phelps draws attention to the weakness of all methods of skull description that depend on the assumption of fixed points—e.g. the Frankfurt plane—and discusses the method of least differences. J. Cameron continues his studies of new indices and modes of study of the skull, and T. D. Stewart publishes a study of the vertebral column of the Eskimo.

H. J. Fleure.

Birth Control Review

October, 1932.—The chief feature of this issue is a collection of very able and instructive comments, contributed by various leading persons, on the presidential address of Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn at the Third International Congress of Eugenics. He had headed his paper "Birth Selection *versus* Birth Control" and yet had declared the key-note of the Congress to be the world's great need for humane birth selection "aided by" humane birth control, and he had made other provoking confusions. Only two of the commentators face the crucial contention, which was perhaps in Dr. Osborn's mind, that birth control will continue to be dysgenic even if the obstructions to the present propaganda were to cease. One says that "we must strain every nerve to discover means of making contraception so easy that any woman can regulate her condition by some means no more difficult than taking a pill." The other might be taken as holding that the ordinary methods must be supplemented by artificial abortion as well as by voluntary sterilization, in view of the following statement: "Voluntary motherhood would give mankind inevitably a fine instru-

ment of selection; only it should be noted that the freedom to have or not to have children must be complete. If women, all women, have free access to every wholesome means of avoiding motherhood, including, of course, sterilization, only those with strong maternal instinct or a real sense of racial responsibility would produce offspring."

B. D.

British Medical Journal

October 22nd, 1932.—*Aetiology of Dental Caries.*—Caries may be classified into four types: Fissure caries, Interstitial caries, Cervical caries, and Recurrent caries after fillings. Of these the last named is due to faulty technique in filling; the cervical caries is a fault in the peridontal tissues; but, in Dr. E. W. Fish's opinion, the interstitial and fissure caries are definitely racial and hereditary in character. Tamil and Chinese coolies working side by side and under similar diet and exposure to sunlight show an extraordinary difference in the incidence of caries, the former being almost immune. The only difference (unfortunately) in habit was the chewing of betel nut by the Tamils. Elliot Smith is quoted showing that dental caries did not appear in the Egyptians until the Third Dynasty, when there was an invasion by a foreign race. On Tristan da Cunha where hereditary and not racial factors predominate, caries has been found to occur among the foreign element in contradistinction to the descendants of the original stock. In England good teeth run in families. Dr. Fish concludes by saying that "The prevention of decay appears to be possible only by rendering the mouth unsuitable as an environment for the saprophytes concerned, or by breeding a race free from morphological crevices and developmental faults, whose gums will never recede."

October 29th.—*Mental Deficiency Pictorially Recorded.*—Dr. R. J. A. Berry shows by photographs the inequality between cerebral, somatic, and sexual development in mentally defective females.

November 26th.—At a discussion at the Kensington Division of the British Medical Association Dr. Binnie Dunlop advocated that abortion should be made legal for any woman who had had two children. Dr. Dame Louise McIlroy strongly opposed this suggestion, and doubted if abortion was as free from danger to the life of the woman as the Russian figures implied. Dr. C. Killick Millard, without tying himself down to a definite opinion, considered that other than medical considerations, such as the number of children already in the family, the family circumstances, and eugenic factors, might be brought before a legal tribunal for the legalization of abortion in individual cases. He suggested that the practice might be more acceptable to certain minds if some other name than "abortion" were used. The substitution of "euthanasia" for "suicide" had gone down well. In replying to the discussion Dame Louise McIlroy added that she did not oppose abortion for females pregnant as a result of criminal assault, nor in those not infrequent cases where young girls just after reaching puberty were the victims of incest.

A. A. E. NEWTH.

Character and Personality*

Vol. 1, No. 1, 1932.—Up to the present very little interest has been shown in Great Britain either in the German theories of personality and temperament (e.g. *Personalistik* and *Typenlehre*), or in the American methods of measurement of traits of personality and character. Apart from the outstanding exception of Galton, English psychologists are most prominent in their studies of the mind as such, normal and abnormal, and (more recently) in industrial and applied psychology. This new journal, *Character and Personality,* however, should serve as a powerful stimulant to them to take an interest in psycho-diagnosis and allied studies of "human nature," such as characterology, typology, experimental graphology, clinical psychology, and psychometrics. It will be published as a quarterly simultaneously in America, in England, and in Germany; in the latter country its title is *Charakter.* All articles will be translated into the language of the country where it is published. The editor, Robert Saudek, lives in England, and his collaborators include such well-known names as Adler, the Bühlers, Drever, Janet, Jung, Kretschmer, Lévy-Bruhl, Luria, McDougall, Pear, Roback, and Utitz. To the reviewer the price seems extremely moderate; and if the first number is any indication of what is to follow, he would certainly recommend it to eugenists, sociologists, psychiatrists, and psychologists.

W. McDougall opens with a discussion "Of the Words Character and Personality," in which he surveys German, English, and American usages of these terms, and outlines his own theory of the organization of human temperament and character. "Sigmund Freud in his Historical Setting," is a most interesting interpretation of Freud's life and work by C. G. Jung; he suggests that Freud's doctrines are a revolt from the repression of sexuality during the Victorian era. Turning to the articles of a more experimental nature: R. Saudek, in "The Years of Puberty in a Public School," illustrates the development of the style and graphic formations in the letters of a boy from the age of 13 to maturity, correlating them with his emotional conflicts and their resolution. In another field of expression, M. I. Friedländer

* Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d. per annum.

("An Art Expert's Observations on Personality") discusses the identification of the authorship of works of art by reference to the personality of the artist.

Two papers which should be of especial interest to eugenists are B. Sandor's "The Functioning of Memory and the Methods of Mathematical Prodigies," and J. E. Downey's "Familial Trends in Personality." The latter consists of an application of the Bernreuter Personality Inventory (an American test of neurotic tendencies, extraversion and dominance) to ten brothers and sisters, members of a single family, with an attempt to trace the parts played by nature and nurture in determining their scores for the traits. J. S. Rosenthal contributes a valuable summary of Pavlov's work on conditioned reflexes ("Typology in the Light of Conditioned Reflexes") with special reference to the temperamental types discovered among dogs. Finally there are abstracts of recent literature on psycho-diagnosis from England, Germany, and Russia, together with book reviews.

It is clear that this quarterly covers a remarkably broad, important, and interesting field, which has hitherto been greatly neglected in this country. Though the articles are undoubtedly written by experts, they are agreeably free from incomprehensible technicalities.

P. E. VERNON.

East African Medical Journal

September 1932.—*The Comparison of the Abilities of Races, with special reference to East Africa.* By R. A. C. Oliver.—There is a good deal of regrettable vagueness in this article. Figures 1 and 2 are inserted to show (*a*) the normal distribution of intelligence in a race, and (*b*) the distribution of intelligence in white Americans and in American negroes. But no data on which they are founded are given, nor is there any reference to authorities where such data may be found.

In an account of a test given to white children and to negro children respectively we are told (*a*) that it was a standardized group test of intelligence prepared by the author, (*b*) that the tests used were probably fairer to both groups than any others available. But the tests themselves are not given and thus we have only the author's own opinion of his test on which to rely for its fairness. To be of any real use graphs and statistics must be presented in much fuller and more detailed form than this. Again, we are told that the average age of the white boys was 14 years 11 months and that of the negro boys 19 years 5 months, though the age of the latter was often unknown and was arrived at by height and weight standards. Of the white boys more than half were 12 to 14 years of age, and therefore had not reached what the author takes to be the age of limit of growth of intelligence, i.e. 15 years. The conclusions which the author draws are (*a*) that the average African score is 85 per cent. of the average European score and (*b*) that 14 per cent. of the Africans reach or exceed the median European score. But if more than half of the Europeans had not yet reached the limit age of intelligence development, while the Africans had reached it, the latter conclusion is of no value. The former conclusion seems to us vitiated, unless we could have the test before us, by the obvious difficulty of providing a test suitable equally to boys of admittedly good European environment and of European heredity, and to boys who came from an environment in which they did not even know their own age and who had a different heredity. Further, it is vitiated by the fact that the Africans were tested in a foreign language.

The whole question of races testing other races to prove superiority or inferiority seems not only futile, but unnecessarily provocative of race animosity. By all means let us devise tests, if we can, which will prove to which systems of training groups of children in particular surroundings and of particular heredity respond best. But the amount of impartiality required to prove that our race in comparison with some other race is superior in intellect is superhuman. Moreover, to some of us the blatancy of proclaiming our own superiority, however convinced of it we may be, seems inadvisable. The further discussions as to correlation of brain size and intelligence add nothing to our knowledge. The question of state of the cortex of the brain of the dead may depend on its use during life and, again, we know so little of its relation to intelligence that it is futile to make contrasts in the present state of our knowledge.

R. M. FLEMING.

Genetica

Vol. 14, Parts 1 and 2.—The greater part of this number is given to a long paper by G. Eloff entitled *A theoretical and experimental study on the changes in the crossing-over value, their causes and meaning.* The paper is unusually composite. Part I in eight chapters is a survey of various causes to which changes in recombination frequency may be ascribed. Separate chapters are given to the effects of temperature and of X-rays, to the effects of age and sex, to crossing-over between the X and Y chromosome, to non-disjunction, etc., and to the effects of translocations. Chapter III in particular is a valuable compilation of the genetical factors which affect the cross-over value and contains useful summaries of the results of several workers with a number of different organisms, workers who have demonstrated experimentally

that the cross-over frequency can be modified extensively by selection.

In Part II, which might have appeared as a separate paper or perhaps more properly as a series of separate papers, is concerned with the author's own experiments. Chapter I is an excursus on the technical methods employed in genetical experiments with the little tropical fish *Lebistes reticulatus*. This will doubtless be useful to other geneticists working with this fish. Here it appears as an unnecessarily prolix introduction to the author's attempt, detailed in Chapter II, to verify Aida's conjecture that crossing-over in some fishes more frequently carries the dominant gene from the Y chromosome to the X than *vice versa*. Although the mating and rearing of the fish was successfully carried out, the experiment failed, apparently because the author had been supplied with males in which the genes were coupled in the Y chromosome, instead of carrying the two genes in repulsion.

The third chapter concerns the author's experiments with *Drosophila melanogaster*, in which he attempted to test the effects, if any, of centrifugation, and of ultra-violet light, on the frequency of crossing-over. The results, though often suggestive, do not appear conclusive of any effects of these agencies; but the chapter ends with a discussion of discrepancies in the results of other workers between the cross-over frequencies obtained from heterozygotes in the coupling and the repulsion phases. The author has opened here a question of considerable interest and states his intention of testing the reality of the differences in as many cases as possible.

R. A. FISHER.

Genetics

November 1932, Vol. 17, No. 10.—*Further studies on the Genetics of abnormalities appearing in the descendants of X-rayed mice.* By C. C. Little and B. W. MacPheters.—One of the remarkable things about mutations which modern genetical work has been tending increasingly to emphasize is that the manifestation of a mutant gene recently introduced into any stock is often exceedingly variable. What is more, this variability is largely inherited, so that, as has often been proved, selection is capable of producing rather rapidly a somewhat extensive modification in the character of the mutant genotype, making the manifestation much more or much less intense than it had first been; or even, what is a rare and more remarkable feature, increasing the intensity of some of its effects while diminishing or even obliterating others.

The mutation described by Little and MacPheters in this paper manifested itself at first in a defect of the eyes. This varied in intensity from a slight atrophy of the eyelids up to the complete disappearance of the optic tract. The mutation also often affected the limbs, causing club feet with syndactylism or, more rarely, the loss of toes or supernumerary toes. Several lines have now been obtained by selection from the original stock. In one of these, although homozygous for the mutation, its effect has been almost obliterated. In nine generations only six mice out of 890 have been in any way abnormal, while in the last five generations 578 mice have been, without exception, normal. In this line the mutant effect may be said to have been obliterated.

A parallel line has been selected for abnormal eyes and for the last eight generations these show 91 per cent. with defective eyes, but only two out of 579 with abnormal feet. Two other lines, however, show over 91 per cent. with abnormal limbs, but these differ greatly in the relative frequency of the abnormality in the fore and hind limbs.

Mendelian ratios derived from material of this sort are disturbed by the proportion of mutant mice which are classified as normals, and by the further fact that about a third of the abnormals die as embryos and degenerate *in utero*.

The authors draw one conclusion which seems not to be well founded. The line with high frequency of eye abnormality but with less than ½ per cent. with abnormal limbs was outcrossed, and abnormals recovered by inbreeding. Of these only seven, or 3 per cent., had abnormal feet. The writers appear to have expected a higher frequency and point out that it is doubtful whether the frequency of limb abnormality has been significantly increased by the outcross. On 203 abnormals recorded this may be so, nevertheless the actual percentage of abnormals has been increased seven-fold, and it would be equally reasonable to say that this does not differ significantly from a twelve-fold increase, as to say that the increase itself is not significant. For determining small percentages, and especially for comparing their magnitudes, large numbers are required, and the authors are perhaps incautious in concluding that the low incidence of foot abnormalities from this cross indicate that the line from which it was derived had "not been developed by the selection of many modifying factors, but by some other genetic process."

The whole research appears to be a beautiful example of the modifiability, under selection, of the reaction of a species to a mutant gene, when this reaction is examined in large numbers over an adequate period; and there are too many other instances in which the presence of numerous modifying factors is strongly indicated for it to be possible to exclude this hypothesis, without cogent evidence, in any analogous case.

R. A. FISHER.

Howard Journal

Vol. 3, No. 5, 1932.—Dr. T. Saxty Good contributes a sober and informative account of the work at the Oxford Clinic in a paper on *The Danger in our Midst: Crime and Abnormality.* He found, at first, in both the Out-Patient Clinic and Child Guidance Clinic that there was a large amount of prejudice to overcome in the minds not only of the authorities, but also of the public before the benefit to be derived from treatment was recognized. There has been, however, a steady increase in the number of patients attending the Out-Patient Clinic, and although the Child Guidance Clinic was only started in July, 1931, there is already a tendency among parents and teachers to send abnormal children to it for investigation.

Dr. Good found that in 42 cases of mental defectives showing criminal tendencies, bad environment was as high as 50 per cent. In the criminal cases not mentally defective the percentage was 58·8. Most of the cases were adults and, the organization for obtaining full histories not being adequate, it was not possible to examine more than a few of the parents. Therefore the hereditary factor was practically unknown, though Dr. Good, judging from his experience in the history of mental defective cases, considers it was probably very high. Dr. Good's experience at the clinic leads him to the same conclusion as those working with larger numbers, that the crimes of the mentally defective are usually of a petty nature. It is to be remembered, however, that murders are committed not so very infrequently by feeble-minded persons and sometimes by moral defectives. Dr. Good suggests that as the world has become more thickly populated the scope for adventurous men has lessened, and the vigour that found an outlet in adventure abroad has now found only a morbid outlet in crime. The clinic enables some adults with criminal tendencies to adjust themselves and avoid overt criminal conduct, but Dr. Good does not consider that the Child Guidance Clinic has yet enough experience to determine whether the treatment of the delinquent child who is not mentally defective acts as a preventive of crime in adult life. It is hoped that Dr. Good will publish later the results of a follow-up of the delinquent subjects treated at the Out-Patient and Child Guidance Clinics and throw further light on the value of psychotherapy in this connection.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

Journal of Animal Ecology*

Vol. 1, No. 1.—Having regard to the number of journals which the unfortunate zoologist has to read, to keep abreast of his work, a new addition to the list may well cause some resentment. But all who will take the trouble to turn over the pages of the new *Journal of Animal Ecology,* which made its first appearance in May last, will agree that it has a great future before it, and must be diligently read. To just this *one* more we *must* extend a welcome, instead of turning to it the cold shoulder.

A sense of the importance of the study of ecology is steadily growing, and here we have some striking samples of the kind of work that is needed.

There are seven papers in this number; each of which, in justice, should have an essay to itself in this review which is obviously impossible. Four are quite arbitrarily selected for mention here, because they happen to touch upon themes which specially interest the reviewer. Dr. H. F. Barnes' study of the infestation of Broadbalk wheat by the "wheat-blossom" midges (*Cecidomya*) is not only abounding with interest for the ecologist, but also of extreme importance economically.

The notes on the Fruit-bats of Australia contain some astonishing facts; and their importance will increase with the years, since the rapid, and often wanton destruction of the forests which is taking place will inevitably exterminate these creatures. This, from the evolutionist's point of view, is a deplorable thing to contemplate. The reviewer recalls a film prepared by the Empire Marketing Board to show what fine work was being done "for the Empire." We saw a great forest of magnificent hardwood trees, 200 feet high, attacked by an army of men with steam-saws. One by one these giants fell. They were then cut up into convenient lengths, and riddled with holes by an auger. Charges of dynamite were then inserted, and lo! the button was pressed, and this valuable timber blown to smithereens. Magnificent! And we are talking of a famine in hardwood trees! Then we were shown the sequel. A number of hideous "shacks" for the settlers—and a crop of maize! Here is the story of a gross of green spectacles, over again. And all this for the glory and the spread of the Empire! They *do* need a little knowledge of ecology in Australia.

Then we have a paper by Messrs. J. T. Cunningham and D. M. Reed, recording the results of their studies of "Some Common Birds" in Brazil. They seem to have left off just when they were making a beginning!

Mr. Cunningham for long years represented a lost cause—which is now becoming respectable—the "Inheritance of Acquired Characters." Now here, to his hand, was one of the finest living examples we have of "acquired characters." And this furnished by the Hoatzin (*Opisthocomus*) wherein the crop has taken over the functions of the now obsolete gizzard.

* Edited by Charles Elton and A. D. Middleton. Cambridge University Press. 22s. 6d. per annum.

Years ago the reviewer suggested that this signal change must have been due to some astringent qualities in the leaves, or fruit, which forms the main diet of this singular bird. Yet neither he, nor Mr. Beebe, who some years ago gave a long account of the Hoatzin and its nestling, made from observations on the living bird in its natural haunts, tell us anything whatever on this theme. Nor did they attempt to taste samples of the vegetation to discover whether " astringency " formed any of its properties. Mr. Cunningham tells us that this bird was largely confined to the " bamboos," which is a very different type of vegetation to that described by Mr. Beebe. Moreover, bamboos would have seemed to be impossible as a habitat for the Hoatzin. Hitherto they have always been described as tree-dwellers. Moreover, the apex of the vestigial sternal keel is covered by a callosity said to be due to the constant habit of the bird in resting this part of the body against the boughs of trees—the Thorn-tree (*Drepanocarpus*), or the Mango — another " acquired character." The neglect of the opportunity presented of making first-hand observations on this matter is to be deplored.

Finally, mention must be made of Mr. Charles Elton's most valuable paper on " Territory among Wood-ants (*Formica rufa*)." But one cannot condense the mass of facts which he has crowded into thirteen large pages so as to make a readable, and fair summary, in a few lines. The paper must be read, and will be read, not only by ecologists, but by psychologists, for it contains matter of the highest importance to both.

The new *Journal of Ecology* has made a fine start: and has shown, beyond peradventure, that it is indispensable if the comparatively new study of ecology is to make headway.

W. P. PYCRAFT.

Ons Nageslacht

Vol. 5, 1932, No. 1.—Bloys van Treslong Prins starts a series of articles on " Sources of eugenical investigations in the Dutch East Indies " by giving a description of the ' Landsarchief ' (Government Record Office) at Batavia. After a short historical introduction a list is given of baptismal, marriage, funeral, and adoption registers at Batavia, Soerabaia, Semarang, Makassar, Banda, Amboina, etc.

Weck deals with a legend about the relatively frequent occurrence of albinos (about 1 per cent.) in the Minahassa (North Celebes). According to this legend the son of the ancestors of the Minahassa people must have been an albino. Another legend, according to which albinism is a result of incest, namely sexual union between mother and son, is not evident.

Remmelts continues his contributions on medical examination before marriage, discussing a suggestion of Sepper that civil registration officers should collect data on eugenically important characters of the persons registering. There are 40 pages in No. 1 dealing with book reviews and eugenical news.

No. 2 opens with a discussion of Smulders's book on *Periodical Continence in Marriage* (written in Dutch) which deals with Knaus Ogino's discovery about the period during which women are likely to conceive. Special attention is given to the physiology of ovulation, corpus luteum, and menstruation, to the eugenical significance of Knaus-Ogino's discovery, and to the sympathetic attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards its application.

The aims and purposes of the World League for Sexual Reform are discussed on pages 76-81. Surprise is expressed that although this movement opposes many of the present laws quite a number of prominent people are sympathizing with it. The Dutch East Indian Eugenical Society cannot join in the League's campaign, since it is restricted to the promotion of eugenical investigations.

Pages 81-4 are devoted to Mrs. Hodson's work for the *Eugenics Society,* referring to the EUGENICS REVIEW, XXIV.

After a general discussion on Tests, there are book reviews and eugenical news.

S. J. WELLENSIEK.

Quarterly Bulletin of the Health Organization of the League of Nations

September, 1932, Vol. 1, No. 3.—*The Economic Depression and the Public Health.*—The object of this investigation is to inquire into the reaction of unemployment upon the health of the populations of certain countries and towns where unemployment is prevalent. The recent statistics of general mortality, of tuberculosis mortality and morbidity (general and for the various age-groups), and of nutrition are presented, compared and studied, account being taken of the effects of influenza epidemics and falling birth rates upon the mortality rates. The countries studied are: Germany, United States of America, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, and Czechoslovakia; the towns are: Amsterdam, Budapest, Cologne, Milan, Paris, Prague, and Warsaw.

Some of the more interesting results of the inquiry may be indicated here by a few short extracts from the report itself:

(1) " If we compare the five-year average of mortality of 1921 to 1925 and of 1926 to 1930, we find a very definite decline in all the countries studied except in the United States, where, as a matter of fact, the former figure was low (11·8 per thousand). The decline was small in

the United Kingdom, where that figure was also low (12·4 per thousand)."

(2) "The crisis had no appreciable effect on the aggregate mortality rates of the different countries in 1931."

(3) "In the large German, English and American towns as a whole, general mortality during the first half of 1932 was low: this also applied to the last three quarters of 1931, an influenza epidemic, which affected the figures, having occurred in the first quarter. For that year as a whole, the mortality was equal to the average for the six preceding years in English towns and was distinctly lower in German and United States towns.

"The exhaustive investigation of mortality in seven large European towns shows exactly the same situation. Only mortality among elderly persons has shown a tendency to increase.

"In those same towns, the steady decline of tuberculosis mortality has continued, except once more among the older element of the population in some of them.

"The few statistics relating to tuberculosis morbidity in our possession do not show any recent increase."

(4) "It would be unwise to draw from these various observations the conclusion that the crisis has had no harmful effect on health, since tuberculosis mortality is only a tardy symptom of this, and general mortality is an imperfect and somewhat insensitive criterion of the state of health of the population. . . . As regards statistics concerning general morbidity, these are practically non-existent."

(5) "Savings, gifts, and money obtained from pawning or selling property represent a source of income which, however, tends to dry up when unemployment is prolonged."

(6) "It is by no means venturesome to raise the question whether serious under-nutrition does not exist among millions of unemployed in Germany to-day."

(7) In Great Britain "It is at least possible for unemployed families, by dedicating a large portion of their income to food, to secure an adequate diet. The margin of safety is, of course, small."

(8) "The allowances of the unemployed in Germany are definitely lower than those of the unemployed in England."

(9) "In Central Europe . . . unemployment probably involves as a rule relative increase in the intake of bread made from rye and coarse flour, the consumption of wheat bread being reduced, while potatoes, which, in comparison with all kinds of bread, are cheap, are likely to become the most prominent item in the diet."

(10) "The falling milk consumption associated with unemployment undoubtedly represents a serious deprivation, particularly for children."

(11) "Many of the unemployed in Germany, it is said, spend long hours of the day asleep, thereby reducing their energy requirements to a minimum. . . . Schemes for providing the unemployed with work without providing them with a working diet should be regarded with caution."

(12) "It is among the wives of the unemployed, whose duties are, if anything, increased when the breadwinner loses his job, that the effects of malnutrition are likely to be earliest in evidence."

It need only be added that the whole trend of this report suggests that although damage to the public health in the various countries cannot at present be statistically demonstrated from the facts available, yet should the existing state of affairs continue such a demonstration may be definitely expected in the not very remote future."

FRANK W. WHITE.

Science Service of Washington

April, 1932.—In a preliminary study on the *Anthropology of the American Criminal*, Professor E. A. Hooton states that criminals of the same racial origin differ in their bodily characteristics according to the type of crime which they commit, that criminals of any given racial or material group differ physically from the law-abiding population of identical ethnic origin, and that the various hereditary physical groups which we call races differ in their criminal propensities. Professor Hooton approaches the subject by the methods of Lombroso and states that he is beginning to suspect that Lombroso was right.

W. NORWOOD EAST.

Scientia

May, 1932, Vol. 51, No. 241-5, Series 3, 1.—*La Nouvelle Anthropologie Criminelle.* By A. A. Mendes-Correa.—The author considers that the proportion of moral inadequates among delinquents is greater than of psychic inadequates, and that the central problem of criminology is the definition of the moral personality of each delinquent. The prevention and cure of crime consists above all in the moral influence exerted on the individual and on the community. But it would be futile to deny that many criminals are incorrigible or to suggest that the soundest morality would immediately suppress crime. The moral influence must be supplemented by practical measures of social defence and eugenic and economic prophylaxis.

Statistics are very variable in regard to the proportion of mentally abnormal persons among delinquents. Goddard gives about 50 per cent.

as the proportion of mental defectives among criminals, Terman 25 per cent., Healy and Bronner 13·5 per cent. The Portuguese investigator Ferreira da Fonseca found among 1,623 delinquent children 20·5 per cent. were mentally abnormal, of whom only 6·4 per cent. were feeble-minded, imbeciles, or idiots. Joao Gonçalves and other observers found still smaller percentages.

The importance and scope of anthropometric measurements have been much exaggerated; they are aids to inquiry, not a definite aim in themselves. Psychological investigations are important but should not be overshadowed by the belief that all criminals are suffering from mental disease. Criminal tendencies often accompany pathological findings, particularly mental ones, and may be even the consequence of them, but we cannot say that crime in general is a psychopathic manifestation. Biological, psychological, ethical, and social factors enter into the creation of a criminal habit as much as they affect an isolated act. But the basic and fundamental study of the criminal is the essential structure of his moral personality.

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