

It seemed to me to be of interest, now, to test the strength of assortative mating with respect to a character in which there is known to be *conscious* selection. The ages of the two members of the pair at once suggested itself. It possesses an added interest because of the former work upon the age at death. I accordingly tabulated the ages of twenty-five hundred couples as given at the marriage license office at Chicago during the spring of 1904. Grouped in three-year classes they are as shown in table.

The data are a little unsatisfactory because of the unfortunate but undeniable proneness of humanity to a lapse of honesty in the matter of age, especially in this connection.

The writer has on hand data which show that this principle applies to certain insects and spiders as well as to man. So that we are doubtless dealing here with a real biological factor as well as one of sociological interest.

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CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

PROGRESS OF KITE AND BALLOON METEOROLOGY.

A FEW years ago no one would have foreseen that a regular publication would be started in 1904, devoted to the physics of the free air, and even to-day scientific men generally must be surprised to see the quantity

TABLE OF AGE AT MARRIAGE.

WIFE.

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30	31-33	34-36	37-39	40-42	43-45	46-48	49-51	52-54	55-57	58-60	
HUSBAND.																	
16-18		2															2
19-21	1	113	147	25	5	3											294
22-24		76	334	169	32	4	4	1									620
25-27		59	217	197	101	20	3	1	1								599
28-30		14	74	117	100	52	16	3	4	2							382
31-33		3	21	35	48	34	20	7	4	4							176
34-36		2	13	26	29	23	21	11	3	5	4		1	1			139
37-39		1	2	12	16	15	9	8	15		6	3	1	1			89
40-42		1	3	7	10	8	4	9	10	8	1		2				63
43-45				4	2	5	6	6	6	5	6	2		1			43
46-48				1	3	3	3	2	4	5	3	2	2				28
49-51						2		4	1	3	2	4	4	2	1		26
52-54			1	2	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	4	1	1	1		20
55-57										2	2		1	2			7
58-60				2						2		1	1	1	1	2	10
61-63													1				1
64-66															1		1
	1	271	812	597	347	172	87	54	49	38	27	16	13	8	6	2	2500

So that the figures, instead of telling the exact truth, show us the state of things, modified somewhat by man's ideas of how he thinks they had better be. This undoubtedly raises the coefficient of correlation slightly. It possibly also accounts for some of the extreme skewness of the curve for the wife's age.

However that may be, the coefficient of correlation between the ages of man and wife, as given, is .764. If this be compared with that of stature (.280), span (.199), forearm (.198) or longevity (.223), it will make it possible to appreciate more clearly the precise extent of the unconscious assortative mating.

and the quality of the contributions which deal with the meteorological conditions of the free air. A recent number of the *Beiträge zur Physik der freien Atmosphäre* (No. 3, 1905), besides the paper on cyclonic and anti-cyclonic temperatures by Clayton, mention of which was recently made in these notes, contains a study of the results obtained during synchronous kite flights from Berlin and Hald (Jutland) from the summer of 1902 to the spring of 1903, and also a short note, by Professor Hergesell, on recent observations on the meteorological conditions of the high warm stratum of air which was first noticed

by Assmann and Teisserenc de Bort at an altitude of about 11 kms. Recent observations during a *ballon-sonde* flight from Strassburg (February 9, 1905) prove the existence of an easterly current at great altitudes, which is independent of the lower currents. The temperature conditions of this upper air stratum show that vertical currents are practically absent, and its high relative humidity suggests some interesting speculations as to its origin.

METEOROLOGICAL ACTIVITY IN ENGLAND.

THE Council of the Royal Meteorological Society of England is about to undertake an extended campaign with a view to advancing the general knowledge of meteorology. A series of lectures is planned, to be of a practical nature, usually illustrated by lantern slides, and to be given by lecturers, appointed by the council, at different places. When possible, exhibits of meteorological instruments are to be made, especially at the shows of the various agricultural societies. The authorities in charge of the 'Agricultural Education in Elementary Schools Bill,' now before Parliament, have been approached with a view to the inclusion of meteorology among the subjects taught in such schools. The scheme as a whole provides for bringing meteorological knowledge to the doors of societies and institutions all over Great Britain. It is also proposed to hold conferences in London, at which delegates from various societies shall be invited to speak. The whole plan shows a healthy activity on the part of the Royal Meteorological Society.

TROPICAL CYCLONES.

THE cyclones of the tropics are of universal interest because of their violence; they are of peculiar interest to meteorologists because of their importance as phenomena having the closest relations to human life and safety, and because of the doubt as to their origin, which gives them an added attraction in the mind of the student. One of the noteworthy efforts to come to a fuller understanding of the frequency, tracks and wind movements in tropical cyclones is a recent paper by A. Schüek,

of Hamburg, entitled 'Zur Kenntniss der Wirbelstürme' (Hamburg, 1905, 4to, pp. 48). This account is accompanied by a large number of illustrations, including some most interesting pressure curves, although the diagrams are crudely drawn and rather difficult to make out.

CLIMATIC CHANGES IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

A GOOD deal of evidence has been adduced within the last two or three years regarding a desiccation of the lakes of central Africa, and the view has come to be somewhat generally held that a distinct change to a drier climate is in progress. Now comes the report (*Globus*, No. 5, 1905) that Lake Rukwa, to the east of Lake Tanganyika, has risen within two years. Such contradictory reports show the need of great caution in jumping at conclusions of climatic change. Periodic changes in the amount of annual rainfall are well known, but they do not indicate permanent climatic changes progressively in one direction.

COTTON-GROWING IN TROPICAL AUSTRALIA.

THE evolution of a marketable type of cotton which has been named *caravonica*, adapted for growth in the climate of Queensland, holds out the hope of a large cultivation of cotton not only in Queensland, but through the whole of the tropical section of Australia north of latitude 18° S. (*Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, XXXVII., No. 4, 1905).

HURRICANES, COCOA TREES AND EXPORTS OF GUAM.

A RECENT report, 'Contributions from the United States National Herbarium,' Vol. IX., by W. E. Safford, under the special title, 'The Useful Plants of Guam,' notes the damage done by hurricanes which pass near the island of Guam. In 1900, the destruction caused by two hurricanes resulted in a dearth of food, and nearly \$10,000 was spent by the government for the relief of the natives. One of the most serious results is the stripping of cocoa trees of their leaves, which may cause a failure of the trees to produce. In 1901, after the hurricanes above noted, not an ounce of copra was produced in Guam, this being practically the only export of the island.

EXPOSURE AND CROPS IN SWITZERLAND.

NUMBERLESS examples may be given to show the difference of exposure, on southern and northern slopes, upon the vegetation. A recent striking illustration is noted in *La Géographie*, No. 3, 1905, and described in the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society* for July. Above the hamlet of Findelen, near Zermatt, in the Alps, barley and rye are grown at an altitude of 6,900 feet above sea level, on a sunny southern slope. On the northern slopes, a few hundred yards distant, there is an arctic-alpine flora, with patches of snow lying below the level of the fields of grain on the southern slope.

R. DEC. WARD.

ACTA OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE
OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

OPENING meeting: Tuesday, July 25, at 11 A.M., at the rooms of the Royal Society.

1. Professor Darboux moved that Professor H. E. Armstrong be the chairman of the convention. The motion having been carried unanimously, Professor H. E. Armstrong took the chair and welcomed the delegates.

2. On motion of the chairman, at the request of the Royal Society, Mr. A. B. Kempe, treasurer of the Royal Society, and Dr. L. Mond, member of the executive committee, were invited to take part in the deliberations of the convention.

3. On the motion of the chairman it was resolved: That Dr. J. Deniker be the secretary for the French language; Professor Dr. August von Böhm, secretary for the German language; Cav. E. Mancini, secretary for the Italian language, and Dr. H. Forster Morley, secretary for the English language.

4. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Dr. Stejneger, it was resolved: That, in view of the success already achieved by the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature and of its great importance to scientific workers, it is imperative to continue the publication of the catalogue at least for a further period of five years.

5. On the motion of the chairman, seconded

by M. Darboux, it was resolved that Dr. H. Forster Morley be reappointed director of the catalogue at a salary of £500 per annum.

6. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Dr. Deniker, it was resolved: That the convention authorizes the annual expenditure of a sum not exceeding £2,000 (in addition to the director's salary), for carrying on the work of the Central Bureau.

Second meeting: Wednesday, July 26, at 10 A.M., at the rooms of the Royal Society.

7. On the motion of M. Darboux it was resolved: That in view of the resolution arrived at to continue the catalogue for a further period of five years, the Royal Society of London be requested: (a) Again to act as the publishing body; (b) to conclude a contract with Messrs. Harrison and Sons to print the catalogue on the terms indicated in the report of the executive committee; (c) to make such provision of working capital as may be desirable in the opinion of the executive committee.

8. On the motion of Dr. Larmor it was unanimously resolved: That as it is undesirable to increase the borrowed capital of the International Catalogue, contracting bodies be informed that in cases where payment in advance is impracticable it is necessary that payment should be made for each volume as soon as possible after delivery. That the director be instructed, in making such special requests for payment as the executive committee may determine, to send a copy of this resolution with his request.

9. On the motion of the chairman it was resolved: That the convention approves of the proposal for an amalgamation of the *Zoological Record* published by the Zoological Society of London with Volume N of the International Catalogue in accordance with paragraph 24 of the report, and authorizes the executive committee to carry the proposal into effect.

10. On the motion of Dr. Stejneger it was resolved: That it is the desire of this convention that the executive committee, as soon as practicable, take into consideration the question of issuing cards.

11. On the motion of Dr. Stejneger, seconded by Dr. Deniker, it was resolved: That