

syrups, for example, where there is always a great protecting excess of the sugar present. In most of the experiments carried out to test the pharmacological action the dosage of the sulphur compound has been so relatively large as to render difficult a conclusion regarding the behavior of small doses, or those which have practical importance. This is especially true of the experiments of Kionka frequently quoted.²³

In Lehmann's experiments on dogs and cats, with doses running up to 37.5 and 62 milligrams of sulphurous oxide (150 to 250 milligrams of sulphite) daily, and extending through about 200 days, no definite harmful effects were seen. Lehmann considered these doses relatively large.²⁴

I can refer but briefly to the work of two recent French commissions which have studied the behavior of sulphurous acid in wine, with respect to the health of the consumer. As a result of these investigations an official announcement was made about a year ago in France, advancing the allowable content of sulphurous oxide in wine from 350 to 450 milligrams per liter, of which not over 100 milligrams may be in the free state. I have not heard that this tentative standard has been modified.

This whole question is now under review by the commission appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture of this country, but the lengthy investigations undertaken have not yet been brought to a conclusion, and can not, therefore, be discussed here.

JOHN H. LONG

THE THOMAS PENNANT COLLECTION

SINCE the death of Gilbert White's correspondent, Thomas Pennant (1726-1798), the author of "British Zoology," "A Tour in Scotland, Wales and Ireland," and other important works, the collections made by him

have remained almost as he left them, at Downing Hall, Holywell, Flintshire. This estate, with the collections, was inherited by a former Countess of Denbigh, and the present owner, the Earl of Denbigh, C.V.O., being about to dispose of it, has presented the whole of the Pennant Collection to the trustees of the British Museum. Accompanying the Collection are several volumes of a manuscript catalogue in which the specimens were, for the most part, entered and numbered. A fairly large proportion of the specimens still bear numbers corresponding with those in the Catalogue, a very fortunate circumstance, since most of the labels that have been preserved had become dissociated from the specimens to which they referred. The Catalogue is accompanied by letters and lists from several of Pennant's distinguished correspondents. Among the 140 birds are the only two known specimens of the extinct British race of capercaillie, as well as the originals of many birds figured in the "British Zoology" (1766). There are also a few mammals, fishes and crustaceans. The recent shells include 16 type-specimens and 70 figured specimens, all described in the "British Zoology." The fossils run to more than 1,000 specimens and include many from foreign localities presented by the Italian naturalist, Allioni, and others. Three of the British Silurian corals were described by Pennant in 1757, and a mammoth tooth from Flintshire was referred to by him in 1771. Of minerals there are about 860 specimens, of which 340 still retain their original labels. Pennant appears to have begun this section of his collection when he visited the Rev. William Borlase, author of "The Natural History of Cornwall," and from him he received specimens from time to time. Other donors were Bishop E. L. Pontoppiden, author of "The Natural History of Norway," and Emmanuel Mendes da Costa, author of "The Natural History of Fossils" (1757). Among the Welsh minerals the most important are those from Flintshire which formed the basis for the description of Flintshire minerals published in "The Tour in Wales" (1778). Additions to

²³ *Arch. Hygiene*, 22: 1896.

²⁴ *Arch. Hygiene*, 66: 303, 1909.

the mineral series were also made by David Pennant, the son of Thomas. Interesting portions of the collection have already been placed on exhibition at the Natural History Museum; but every specimen is to be carefully preserved, and it may be hoped that in course of time the Museum experts will be able to identify yet other specimens of historical importance.

Thomas Pennant was one of the best known naturalists of his day. At an early age he was in correspondence with Linnæus. Buffon, whom he visited in Burgundy, utilized the "History of Quadrupeds." Cuvier, in the "Biographie Universelle," spoke of that work as "encore indispensable," and further accorded high praise to the "Arctic Zoology."

THE POPULATION OF NEW YORK STATE

THE composition and characteristics of the population of New York, as reported at the Thirteenth Decennial Census, are given in an advance bulletin soon to be issued by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce and Labor. Of the total population of New York, 3,230,325, or 35.4 per cent., are native whites of native parentage; 3,007,248, or 33 per cent., are native whites of foreign or mixed parentage; 2,729,272, or 29.9 per cent., are foreign-born whites; and 134,191, or 1.5 per cent., are negroes. The corresponding percentages in 1900 were 39.2, 33.2, 26 and 1.4, respectively, the proportion of foreign-born whites having increased during the decade. In 35 of the 61 counties the percentage of foreign-born whites is less than 15; in 18 it is between 15 and 25; in 6 it is between 25 and 35, and in 2, New York and Kings, it is 35 or over. Of the 2,762,522 inhabitants of New York County, 45.4 per cent. are foreign-born whites and only 15.8 per cent. are native whites of native parentage. In 23 counties the percentage of native whites of foreign or mixed parentage exceeds 25, being 42.6 in Queens, 41.5 in Erie, and 40.6 in Kings. Of the urban population, 27.2 per cent. are native whites of native parentage; of the rural, 66.1 per cent. The corresponding proportions for native whites of foreign or mixed parentage are 36.5 and 19.9

per cent. respectively. The percentage of foreign-born whites is 34.5 in the urban population and 12.8 in the rural.

In the total population of the state there are 4,584,597 males and 4,529,017 females, or 101.2 males to 100 females. In 1900 the ratio was 98.9 to 100. Among native whites the ratio is 97.5 to 100, and among foreign-born whites 110.5 to 100.

Of the total native population—that is, population born in the United States—88.7 per cent. were born in New York and 11.3 per cent. outside the state; of the native white population, 10.4 per cent. were born outside the state, and of the native negro, 59 per cent. Persons born outside the state constitute a larger proportion of the native population in urban than in rural communities.

Of the foreign-born white population of New York, persons born in Russia represent 20.5 per cent.; Italy, 17.3; Germany, 16; Ireland, 13.5; Austria, 9; England, 5.4; Canada, 4.5; Hungary, 3.5; Sweden, 2; all other countries, 8.4. Of the total white stock of foreign origin, which includes persons born abroad and also natives having one or both parents born abroad, Germany contributed 21.5 per cent.; Ireland, 19; Russia, 14.8; Italy, 12.9; Austria, 6.7; England, 6; Canada, 4.7; Hungary, 2.5; Scotland, 1.6; Sweden, 1.6 per cent.

Of the total population, 9.9 per cent. are under 5 years of age, 17.4 per cent. from 5 to 14 years, inclusive, 19.5 per cent. from 15 to 24, 32.5 per cent. from 25 to 44, and 20.6 per cent. 45 years of age and over. The foreign-born white population comprises comparatively few children, only 7 per cent. of this class being under 15 years of age, while 73.6 per cent. are 25 years of age and over. Of the native whites of foreign or mixed parentage, 38.3 per cent. are 25 and over, and of the native whites of native parentage, 49 per cent. The urban population shows a larger proportion of persons in the prime of life than the rural and a smaller proportion past middle age. Migration to the city and the influx of foreign immigrants explains this, at least in part. Of the urban population, 33.6 per cent. are from 25 to 44 years of age, inclusive, and