lations. Demonstrations of parasitic insects and other animal parasites, with explanation of relation to hosts.

VII. ONTOGENY. (A) *Lectures:* The general principles of reproduction and development. (B) *Laboratory work:* The study of the development of the frog, and comparison with other forms. Demonstrations of mitosis, germ-cells, chromosomes, fertilization; chick embryos and their nutritive mechanism; mammalian embryos and their relation to the placenta.

VIII. PRINCIPLES OF GENETICS. (A) *Lectures:* (1) Essentials of Mendelian heredity; (2) mechanism of heredity. (B) *Laboratory work:* Demonstrations of living and preserved material illustrating Mendelian principles.

IX. PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC EVOLUTION. (A) *Lectures:* (1) Sources of evidence for evolutional change; (2) the method of evolution, with brief historical account and a discussion in the light of recent knowledge of the manner in which evolutional change takes place. (B) *Laboratory work:* Demonstrations of fluctuations, mutations, etc. Demonstrations of paleontological material, both fossils and models.

GEORGE LEFEVRE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI,
COLUMBIA, MO.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CHANGES IN THE FRENCH POPULATION IN 1918

THE minister of labor has completed the birth and mortality statistics for France for the year 1918. According to the Paris correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association the statistics show that the civil population of France decreased during the year 1918 by 389,575, not counting the war losses. The statistics, based on civil records, continue to cover only the seventy-seven departments that were not directly affected by military operations. This is the same as it was during the first four years of the war. It will be the same for the year 1919, and not until the beginning of 1920 will the statistics of all French territory, made complete by accession of Alsace and Lorraine, be included. If one compares the statistics of the years 1917 and 1918, for the seventy-seven departments of which account was taken, one will note that last year shows not only the persistance of an excess of deaths over births, but even an increase of the excess over that of the preceding year. In 1917, the population of the seventy-seven departments not invaded decreased 268,838, whereas the decrease in 1918 has risen to 389,575. This result is due to the considerable increase in the number of deaths during the second half of 1918, ascribable to the influenza epidemic; for the number of births showed a slight increase over 1917. A comparison of the statistics of the years 1917 and 1918 is given in the accompanying table:

	1918	1917
Births	399,041	343,310
Deaths	788,616	613,148
Excess of deaths over births	389,575	269,838
Marriages	177,872	158,508
Divorces	8,121	5,572

An analysis of the table reveals the fact that in 1918 there was: (1) an increase in the number of marriages; (2) a corresponding increase in the number of births, and (3) an increase in the number of deaths. This increase in mortality affects exclusively the second half of last year. During the first half of 1918, 316,077 deaths were recorded, as compared with 354,554 during the first half of 1917; and during the second half of 1918, 472,539 deaths were registered, as against 258,594 in 1917. According to the preceding figures, the number of civil victims claimed by the influenza last year may be placed at approximately 200,000.

A PUEBLO RUIN IN NEW MEXICO

THREE years ago Earl H. Morris, representing the American Museum of Natural History, undertook the excavation of an ancient Pueblo ruin in Astec, New Mexico. The work was begun at the suggestion and through the courtesy of the H. D. Abrams, the owner of the property, and is being financed from the Archer M. Huntington fund for surveying the southwestern United States. During the past month the museum party has uncovered a new section of the ruin revealing several rooms filled with sand and