

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 evolutionary change; (2) the method of evolution, with brief historical account and a discussion in the light of recent knowledge of the manner in which evolutionary change takes place. (B) *Laboratory work*: Demonstrations of fluctuations, mutations, etc. Demonstrations of paleontological material, both fossils and models.

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### 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 persistence 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

fallen débris. These rooms were in perfect condition, just as left by the last occupants. The ceilings were standing and the objects left by the inhabitants scattered about on the floor. Nothing has disturbed them except the fine layer of dust sifted over all. One of the rooms had been filled to the ceiling and was found to be a burial room.

Mr. Morris writes:

In two second-story chambers there was a large accumulation of dry refuse. One of these yielded some excellent specimens of textiles and a burial with wrappings in a very good state of preservation. Above the refuse in the other room there was upon the fallen third floor a surprising number of stone implements, several bone tools, some beautifully worked wooden boards, seven coiled basket plaques (three well preserved), and a digging implement with handle of wood and blade of mountain sheep horn. In the refuse beneath this layer we have to date found the burials of five children (three with wrappings perfectly preserved), four baskets in excellent shape, a wooden dipper, some beads and various odds and ends. Three fourths of the deposit is still to be gone over. The outer covering of the wrapped bodies is particularly interesting. Each body was placed upon a rush mat. Then the sides were folded inward, and one doubled upward. The whole was then tied into a long package with cord or yuca strips. As yet I have not opened any of the bundles, so do not know what the interiors may contain besides the bones. These finds certainly are important. They are different from anything we have previously uncovered.

As a result of the excavations Aztec has become a popular resort for visitors. About 100 miles southwest of the Mesa Verde Park (in which the finest cliff-houses are to be found), and not over two hours' ride from Durango, Colorado, the ruin at Aztec is an attraction to all automobile tourists. During the present year more than 1,200 people visited the ruin.

#### THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SURGEONS

THE ninth annual convention of the American Congress of Surgeons was held in New York City, beginning on October 20. War-time developments in surgery and the possibility of their adoption to industrial and civil

practise were the principal topics for discussion.

More than 2,000 surgeons were present from all parts of the United States. Major General Sir Anthony Bowlby, who served as consulting surgeon to the British forces in France; and Sir Robert Jones, chief consulting surgeon and specialist in restoration of injured limbs at the army hospitals in France, England and Ireland, were present at the meeting.

The convention was opened by an address by Dr. J. S. Hill, of Bellows Falls, Vt., president of the congress. The remainder of the day's session was given over to technical discussions. Dr. William J. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., delivered the inaugural address on the evening of October 20, the sessions continuing throughout the week.

A series of clinics covering every phase of modern surgery, another of afternoon meetings devoted to technical discussion of the morning's work, and a program of evening sessions, which, while arranged especially for surgeons, held much of direct interest to the general public were in progress during the week. The following program was presented:

#### PRESIDENTIAL MEETING, MONDAY

Address of welcome, Dr. J. Bentley Squier, New York, chairman of committee on arrangements.

Address of retiring president, Dr. John G. Clark, Philadelphia.

Inaugural address, Dr. William J. Mayo, Rochester, Minn.

Introduction of foreign guests, Sir Robert Jones, Liverpool; Major Gillies, R.A.M.C., Sidecup; Sir Anthony Bowlby, London.

Sir Anthony Bowlby, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S., London: "Fractures of the femur." Discussion, F. N. G. Starr, M.D., Toronto.

#### TUESDAY

Dr. Harvey Cushing, Boston: "Brain tumor statistics." Discussion, Dr. Charles H. Frazier, Philadelphia; Dr. Allen B. Kanavel, Chicago; Dr. Charles A. Elsberg, New York.

Dr. Alexis V. Moschcowitz, New York: "Empyema; with particular reference to its pathogenesis and treatment." Discussion, Dr. John L. Yates, Milwaukee; Dr. James F. Mitchell, Washington.