

will be presented together with a discussion of a few of the problems in biology that are affected by this new point of view.

IVAN E. WALLIN

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, DENVER

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION

It is six months since the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation was formally installed, under the auspices of the League of Nations. According to the first bulletin of its Information Section it has completed its organization and begun work on a number of problems.

Up to the present, in accordance with decisions of the council and the assembly of the League, the complete framework of intellectual cooperation has taken the following form: First, the *International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation*. This committee, appointed by the council of the League from among the distinguished scholars of various countries, meets once or twice a year to consider the more important problems of intellectual cooperation and approve their study where study seems practicable. The detail of special questions is referred to one of a series of *sub-committees*, made up partly of qualified members of the main committee, and partly of co-opted experts.

Next, the *National Committees on Intellectual Cooperation*. These committees are constituted by various countries themselves, in such fashion as to present a cross-section of the intellectual life of the country. Their function is to study national questions of intellectual cooperation and to collaborate in international questions with the central committee.

Thirty-one national committees have already been established in Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Salvador, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tchecoslovakia, the United States of America and Yugo-Slavia.

Third, *Government Delegates accredited to the Institute*. The function of these delegates is to secure to the institute the direct contact with governments necessary for the carrying out of its projects. More than twenty states have already nominated official delegates, who meet periodically as a group in Paris.

Finally, the *International Institute* itself, with seven sections.

The *General Section* has succeeded in establishing

close contacts with the outstanding general international associations. The section conducts a service of documentation on intellectual questions. This service has begun to publish a selected bibliography on the international organization of intellectual life, and is preparing the ground for an international statistical survey of intellectual activities, and a repertory of international institutions and associations.

The *University Section* has been studying the international relations of universities, particularly with reference to the exchange of professors and students. It has begun to publish a *Bulletin of University Relations*, which gives an account of the international activity of universities in all parts of the world.

The *Science Section* has a wide field of action, since all the sciences are in need of agreements and research programs conceived on an international scale that will economize effort by avoiding duplication of work.

The section has prepared an agreement among libraries in all parts of the world for an international information service available to the public: 400 have actually responded to the questionnaires sent out by the section. It is also studying projects for an international lending library, the reorganization of analytic bibliography in the physical sciences, and the creation of a permanent international bureau of meteorology. The section has been in close touch with the proceedings of scientific congresses. It has begun the publication of a *Bulletin of International Scientific Relations*.

There are in addition sections of law, literature, art and information.

## ENGLISH VITAL STATISTICS

THE Registrar-General's *Statistical Review* of England and Wales for 1924 has been issued. According to an abstract in the *British Medical Journal*, the number of deaths (473,235) is the smallest registered since 1867, when the population was only 56 per cent. of that estimated for 1924. They correspond to a rate of 12.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, but when standardized this rate is reduced to 10.7. The standardization was effected by comparison with 1901, when the population included relatively few infants and old people; it formed, therefore, a standard exceptionally favorable to low mortality and accordingly yielded comparatively low standard rates all round. To correct any wrong impression thus produced and to provide standard rates comparable with those of other countries the standards recommended by the International Statistical Institute were used, when the rate was increased from 10.7 to 12.0 per 1,000. The standard rate of 10.7 was less than any returned prior to 1924, when the low record of 10.3