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

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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

was reached. The increase of mortality, which applied equally to each sex, occurred entirely in the first quarter of the year, when the death rate rose from 13.2 per 1,000 in the previous year to 16.6. The rate for the second quarter was lower than for any of the previous nine years, except 1921, and those of the third and fourth quarters were the lowest yet recorded. The excess in the first quarter occurred chiefly in March and was largely due to influenza, but the rate was high for a number of other diseases also, and it would appear that the conditions during March were such as to hasten the advent of death when impending from many causes not otherwise affected by season. The rate of infant mortality was 75 per 1,000 births, and was the lowest recorded, except in 1923, when it fell to 69. In a section on the distribution of infant mortality it is shown that the rates for the county boroughs and for the North of England are, as usual, in considerable excess, the highest rate being 99 for the northern county boroughs, and the lowest, 51, in the rural districts of the south. Taking the country as a whole, the fall of 6 per cent. as compared with the preceding quinquennium was accounted for by a decline in the number of deaths attributed to diarrhoea, congenital debility and convulsions. There was an increase from bronchitis and pneumonia. The reduction of mortality at ages 1 to 5 has been greater than in that of infants. As was pointed out in the report for last year, this is the period of life at which susceptibility of mortality to environment is greatest, so it is probable that improvement in the conditions under which the children were living has been the main factor in bringing about this remarkable change. For this improvement the fall in the birth rate may be largely responsible, but if so it "can not be expected to continue for long at the recent rate, for the birth rate, though it may continue to fall, can not long do so at the present rate consistently with national survival."

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

GEOGRAPHIC names established by the expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico, have been adopted by the United States and Mexican governments as follows:

ANGULO ROCK. A small, outlying, flat-topped rock immediately northeast of Asuncion Island, Lower California. It is named for Captain Victor Angulo, commander of the Mexican National Patrol vessel, *Presidente*.

MOUNT GALLEGOS. The highest mountain on Clarion Island of the Revillagigedo group. Chart No. 1688 of the United States Hydrographic Office, gives the elevation of this mountain as 1,100 feet. It is named in honor of the late Professor Jose M. Gallegos, explorer for the Government of Mexico and a member of the party which, in 1925, explored this mountain.

MOUNT EVERMANN. The central peak of Socorro Island of the Revillagigedo group. Named for Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, the distinguished director of the California Academy of Sciences and the organizer of this and many other expeditions in which the academy has actively cooperated with the Government of Mexico.

GRAYSON'S COVE. There is a little cove at the west end of Cornwallis Bay, Socorro Island, as shown on Chart No. 1687 of the United States Hydrographic Office. Here, in 1867, Colonel A. S. Grayson's sloop was wrecked. It is the only known supply of fresh water on the island and the suggestion has been made that it be so marked on future charts.

POINT OLD MAN OF THE ROCKS. This name was given by Colonel Grayson to the point of rocks which formed the eastern boundary of the little cove where he found fresh water.

ASH HEAP. At the south end of San Benedicto Island the highest elevation is attained, 975 feet. This elevation or peak is composed almost entirely of soft volcanic ashes, hence the name.

HERRERA CRATER. The central peak of San Benedicto Island is indicated on Chart No. 1687 of the United States Hydrographic Office as being 683 feet high. This peak is named in honor of Professor Alphonso Herrera, the director of the National Museum of Mexico. Professor Herrera took an active part in the expedition.

VISIT OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY TO PRIESTLEY'S GRAVE

To mark the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of oxygen, seventy-four American chemists visited the former home of Priestley on the banks of the Susquehanna in August, 1874, and at that time the association was formed which became two years later the American Chemical Society. At the time of the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia on September 5, there will be a second visit to the home and grave of Priestley.

We learn from an article on the subject by Dr. Gerald Wendt in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* that only three of the original group survive. Of these Dr. S. A. Goldschmidt, of New York City, a member of the society for fifty years, and Professor A. A. Breneman, also of New York iCty, are expected to be present. Dr. F. W. Clarke, of the U. S. Geological Survey, is at present in England. Though only two of the original seventy-four can be present, there will be hundreds of their scientific heirs who will make the pilgrimage to mark the double anniversary. Some of them will be looking forward to their part in the next great pilgrimage in 1974.

Hosts on this occasion will be Mrs. Frances Priestley Forsythe, great-granddaughter of the founder of modern chemistry; the Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Chemical Society, in whose territory the town of Northumberland lies, and the G. G. Pond