

70,976 births, this being only 2,287 less than in 1927. In the last quarter of 1927 the births fell below the lowest number recorded for this quarter even during the war. The decrease in the number of births in London since 1921 has averaged about 4,000 annually. In 1901, when the population was about the same, the births exceeded those of last year by 57,829.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE University of Cambridge has been offered £50,000 by the British Exchequer and a further £50,000 from the Empire Marketing Board toward the sum required to enable the university to accept the conditional grant of £700,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation, to provide new facilities for the study of agriculture, biology and physics, and to build a new university library.

THE Imperial University Library, Tokyo, built by a gift of four million yen from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has been dedicated, the American and British ambassadors and the minister of education participating. The building replaces that destroyed in the 1923 earthquake. It contains 600,000 volumes, largely gifts from America and Great Britain.

DR. RUTH WHEELER, professor of physiology and nutrition at Vassar College, has been appointed director of the Summer Institute of Euthenics at Vassar to succeed Professor Annie MacLeod, now dean of the college of home economics at Syracuse University.

PROFESSOR ANDREW HUNTER, of the University of Toronto, formerly on the faculty of Cornell University, has been appointed to the Gardner chair of physiological chemistry at the University of Glasgow.

DR. KARL HERMANN SCHEUMANN, of Berlin, has been called to a professorship of mineralogy and petrography at the University of Leipzig.

PROFESSOR A. FRAENKEL, of Kiel, has been invited to become the head of the Mathematics Institute of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem which was opened in October. He will begin his work in 1929. In the meanwhile Dr. Michael Fekete is the acting director of the institute.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ON THE GENERAL STANDING OF ENTOMOLOGISTS AMONG MEN OF SCIENCE IN EUROPE

IN past years the attitude of men of science towards entomology has not been all that we entomologists could have wished. While this fact has not driven many of us into an inferiority complex, it has been a condition that has not altogether pleased us. With

this thought in my mind, about a year ago I went into the library one day and spent an hour or so studying the records of the Royal Society of London and of the Académie des Sciences. I then wrote the three paragraphs that follow, and I am sure that they will be of interest to all biologists.

A very good way of judging the standing of entomologists among other scientific men from an early date to the present is to be gained by consulting the lists of members of the Royal Society. I have gone through the alphabetical list of the membership from 1663 to 1901, as published in the *Record of the Royal Society*, 1901. There are approximately 5,575 names in this list, and of these I recognize nineteen as entomologists. They are, in order, Valisnieri, 1703; Réaumur, 1738; Kirby, 1818; Spence, 1834; James Rennie, 1845; Lubbock, 1858; Siebold, 1858; Van Beneden, 1875; Salvin, 1875; MacLellan, 1877; Godman, 1882; Trimen, 1883; Meldola, 1886; Pickard-Cambridge, 1887; Poulton, 1887; Walsingham, 1887; Sharp, 1890; Miall, 1892, and Elwes, 1897.

With the new century, however, there seems to have been more or less of a change, much of it due to discoveries in medical entomology. Of the 450 living members recorded in the *Yearbook of the Royal Society* for 1927, there are thirteen names of men who have done work with insects. Of these, Ross (1901), Alcock (1901), Shipley (1904), Nuttall (1904), Pocock (1911), Newstead (1912), Graham-Smith (1919) and Christophers (1926) all probably owe their election to their work connected with medical entomology. The remaining five are Meyrick (1904), Dixey (1910), Rothschild (1911), G. A. K. Marshall (1923) and Tillyard (1925). Of these, of course, Marshall, as director of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, and Tillyard, as entomologist of the Cawthron Institute in New Zealand and now of the Department of Agriculture of Australia, should be ranked in some degree as economic entomologists.

It would be difficult to get a better view of the relative standing of the sciences among the scientific men than that afforded by a cursory study of the list of members and correspondents of the Académie des Sciences of France. I have gone through this list and find that from 1795 to 1927 there were apparently 1,025 such members and correspondents, and the list covers the whole scientific world. Of these approximately 1,025 names, there are those of fourteen who have done work in entomology, but, of these, four, namely, Bouvier, Giard, Henneguy and Siebold, were surely elected more for their work in other fields of biological science. Of the remaining ten entomologists, it is interesting to note that four have been elected since the beginning of the present century, namely, Auebury, Lameere, Marchal and Simon.