

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NATIVE RACES IN NEW GUINEA

THE London *Times* reports that in furtherance of the efforts that are being made by the Australian Administration of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea to deal with the problem of population, a sociological census is being conducted by the government anthropologist with the object of revealing the causes of depopulation wherever it exists. On the results of the census will depend the measures which the administration will take to arrest the decline.

The investigation of independent anthropologists who are now working in the territory will bear very closely on the matter, particularly as some of these scientists are women and will probably be able to secure accurate information as to the position of the female native, and the extent to which this is connected with the population question. There are at present two women anthropologists working among the natives in the territory. Dr. Hortense Powdermaker, of London University, supported by the National Research Council, has been for some months in New Ireland villages. Dr. Margaret Fortune, accompanied by her husband, Mr. H. R. Fortune (Cambridge), is supported by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and is investigating social questions affecting the status of women, among the Manus tribes in the Admiralty Islands. Miss Beatrice Blackwood, demonstrator in ethnology at Oxford University, is expected at Rabaul soon to take up similar work. Mr. Gregory Bateson, who holds a research studentship of Cambridge University, has lived for more than a year among the Baining and the Sulkas in New Britain, and will soon leave for the Sepik to continue his investigations there.

The Crane Pacific Expedition, which is now at work in the vicinity of the Sepik, includes in its personnel Dr. W. L. Moss, of the Harvard Medical School, who is taking blood slides and anthropological measurements of natives. This expedition, financed by a Chicago business man who is also a trustee of the Chicago Field Museum, includes an ichthyologist and half a dozen other scientists who are engaged principally in the collection of biological specimens for the museum.

Recent research workers whose contributions to the anthropology of New Guinea have been published are Mr. G. Pitt-Rivers, who spent some time among the natives of Aua and Matti Islands, and Dr. R. W. Cilento, formerly director of public health in the territory, who, with funds supplied by the commonwealth government, investigated the cause of depopulation in the western islands of the territory. The work of all these scientists will throw some light on the factor, possibly different in every area, upon

which it will be necessary to concentrate to arrest depopulation and maintain a virile native race.

The anthropologist attached to the administration, Mr. Chinnery, is now engaged on a sociological census in the New Ireland district, having already spent some months in Kieta.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE CHILEAN OBSERVATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE University of California Lick Observatory station at Santiago, Chile, which for a quarter of a century has given California representation in the southern hemisphere of the globe, 6,000 miles or more from the main campus, has been closed.

The regents of the university have given approval to the final report of the sale of the observatory equipment to the Catholic University of Chile, and the disposition of the funds thus secured.

The observatory at Santiago, on Cerro San Cristobal, was established in 1903 for the purpose of obtaining data on the radial velocities of stars in the southern hemisphere of the sky in connection with a survey being made by Dr. W. W. Campbell, now president of the university. The cost of the station was met by the late D. O. Mills, at that time a regent.

It was expected that the work would require two years to complete, but the task proved to be many times more complex than was thought; almost 25 years elapsed before the required data could be accumulated. Among other things it was found that about one out of four supposedly single stars was in reality double or multiple stars composed of two or occasionally more stellar bodies revolving about each other.

During the quarter century of observation at Santiago, almost \$200,000 was spent in staff salaries and equipment, which came entirely from private gifts, though the results of the work have redounded to the credit of the university and of the state. The final results of the survey were recently published by President Campbell and Astronomer Joseph Haines Moore.

After the death of Regent D. O. Mills, the chief contributors to the support of the work at Santiago were: Ogden Mills, William H. Crocker, Mrs. Crocker, F. W. Bradley, A. B. Spreckels, Gordon Blanding, Dr. Ambrose Swasey, George B. Douglas, William B. Bourn, Alexander F. Morrison, Mortimer and Hubert Fleishhacker, the Carnegie Corporation, Phillip E. Bowles and an anonymous alumnus of the university.

THE NATIONAL FORESTS OF ALASKA

THE *United States Daily* reports that development work on the national forests of Alaska has been