

separately, there was an increase in England and Wales and a decrease in Scotland and the Irish Free State. The estimated population of England and Wales in 1929 was 39,607,000, against 39,482,000 in 1928, an increase of 125,000, or 0.32 per cent. For Scotland the figures are 4,884,000 and 4,893,000, a decrease of 9,000, or 0.18 per cent.; for the Irish Free State 2,943,000 and 2,949,000, a decrease of 6,000, or 0.2 per cent. The marriage rate for En-

gland and Wales during 1928 was 15.8 per thousand living and was the highest since 1921. The number of divorcees was 3,396 against 4,018 in 1928, a decrease of 15.5 per cent. The birth rate was 16.3 per thousand of population, against 16.7 in 1928, thus continuing the steady fall of recent years. The proportion of male to female births was 1,043 to 1,000, a close approximation to that in recent and prewar years.

## DISCUSSION

### AN INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL ADDRESS BOOK

At the final plenary meeting of the Fifth International Botanical Congress, Cambridge, England, August 23, 1930, it was unanimously resolved that an international address book of botanists should be prepared and published. A committee consisting of Professor L. Diels, director of the Botanic Gardens, Berlin-Dahlem, Dr. E. D. Merrill, director of the New York Botanical Garden, and Dr. T. F. Chipp, assistant director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, was appointed to consummate the project.

The last publication of its kind, Dorfler's "Botaniker Addressbuch," was published in 1909; the need of an up-to-date publication has been increasingly felt in late years, with the rapid growth of botanical science and the necessity for more general communication and cooperation among botanists in different parts of the world.

At meetings of the committee held in London on August 25 and September 4, 1930, it was agreed that:

(1) The address book should follow the general scheme of Dorfler, but the countries to be arranged alphabetically with a supplementary index by continents.

(2) The sections under each country should comprise a list of institutions and societies, and a list of botanists, with their surnames and initials, professional qualifications, offices, addresses and the special field of interest of each individual.

(3) Entries should be made in the language of each country in Roman characters.

(4) In applied subjects, such as forestry, agriculture and bacteriology, only those working in the botanical aspects of the subject should be included.

(5) The final compilation of data should be done at Kew.

It was tentatively decided that April 1, 1931, or a later date, if necessary, would be the date for closing the entries.

The committee realized that if the project was to be successfully consummated, the assistance of botanists in each country would be necessary. Accordingly, each member of the committee undertook the

responsibility of collecting and collating the necessary data from the various parts of the world. Professor Diels accepted Central and Eastern Europe, U. S. S. R. and most of South America; Dr. Merrill, the whole of North America, the West Indies, other than the British colonies, Colombia, Ecuador, British, French and Dutch Guiana, Venezuela, Paraguay, all of Polynesia, and the Philippines, and Dr. Chipp the rest of the world.

Dorfler's address book had about 12,500 entries. It is estimated that a comprehensive new address book will contain in excess of 20,000 entries. To make it reasonably complete the cooperation of botanists everywhere is desired. If individuals within the areas assigned to me and who desire their names to appear in the new botanical address book will send me a post card giving the data required, I will see that these data are properly compiled and transmitted to the central office at Kew. What is needed in each case is the name and initials of the individual, his or her address, degrees and titles, position and special field of interest. About ninety collaborators have been selected and asked to compile data for specific areas, covering institutions and societies as well as individual names and addresses. Names of many individuals who should appear in the new address book will doubtless be overlooked, hence this appeal to individual botanists everywhere. Please compile the data required on an ordinary post card, in typewriting if possible, and send it to the undersigned; all such supplementary data will be collated with those supplied by the selected collaborators, before transmission to Dr. Chipp at Kew.

E. D. MERRILL

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN,  
BRONX PARK, NEW YORK

### THE WHALING SITUATION

DURING the past two years the writer has been interested in collecting statistical matter relative to present-day whaling. In a presentation of this subject in the January, 1930, number of the *Bulletin* of the New York Zoological Society, he introduced sta-