the primary differences which mark off the races of man as due to the relative activities of various endocrine glands. While his opinions are highly conjectural they are suggestive and show the importance of further investigation in this interesting field. Stature, for example, is largely regulated by the secretion from the pituitary gland, and Keith maintains that the average European is taller than the average Negro or Mongolian because of the more pronounced activity of this gland in the Caucasian type. The pituitary also probably influences the character of the hair, the texture of the skin, and the cast of features. Hormones from the male gonad are apparently responsible for the main secondary sexual differences. Judging from the more heavily haired condition of the body in Caucasians, he likewise infers that this tissue is more active in them than in the Mongolian and Negroid types. Again, he thinks that the lighter color of the paler-skinned races may have been produced by a greater activity of the adrenal glands, since their secretion tends to destroy pigmentary bodies. According to his hypothesis, then, the Caucasian type is characterized by a relatively greater amount of internal secretion from gonads, and from pituitary, thyroid and adrenal glands. Since racial characteristics are inherited, however, it is evident that such differences of mind or body, in so far as they are referable to the influence of internal secretions, must be assigned eventually to the germinal factors which determine the corresponding differences in the endocrinal glands.

In conclusion, then, I think it is evident from even this cursory review of the endocrine system that we have in the internal secretions a series of powerful agents which profoundly influence our body-structure, our health and our whole personality.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DROUGHT IN THE NESTING AREAS OF WATERFOWL OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

THE reports of representatives of the U. S. Biological Survey who have recently returned from expeditions to northern areas of the United States in company with Canadian officials to the principal duck-breeding areas in Canada indicate that severe limitation of the number of waterfowl to be killed during the coming season may be necessary as a result of long-continued drought in the nesting areas. Although federal regulations governing the shooting of ducks and geese were recently amended to reduce the open season throughout the United States by two weeks this fall and winter, still further restriction of the annual kill may be necessary.

Discouraging reports were made of unprecedented drought; of lakes and ponds and marshes turned into dusty barrens with no sign of aquatic life, and of the almost complete absence of water during the period in the great prairie breeding grounds of southwestern Manitoba, southern Saskatchewan as far north as Saskatoon, and Alberta westward to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and northward to the vicinity of Edmonton.

A marked shortage of breeding ducks and young was noted in the great delta region of the Peace and Athabaska rivers. In tours of several thousand miles the investigators saw only a few dozen small broods of young ducks in an area that in normal years has produced many millions of mallards, pintails, redheads, canvasbacks, bluebills and teals.

The shallow prairie sloughs and lakes of the region have disappeared following about ten years of reduced rainfall and three seasons of persistent drought. A far-reaching inquiry sent out by the Canadian Government has failed so far to show that the ducks have found other more remote breeding areas.

Not all the ducks and geese that come into the United States are bred in the region surveyed but a very large proportion of the wild fowl that make up the great flights know that country as their birthplace, and the shortage of breeding birds and the loss of so many young will have a serious effect upon shooting conditions both in this country and in Canada. Both the Canadian and United States governments under the migratory-bird treaty are concerned over the disastrous conditions that now threaten the wild fowl of the continent.

The two governments are therefore endeavoring to avert shortages by devising methods for saving an adequate supply of breeders for next season. The severity of the limitations that may be necessary will not be determined definitely until after further conferences between the authorities of Canada and of the United States and until more information is received from the nesting grounds.

To avert the grave possibilities of a permanent disaster to the wild fowl, the gunners in all sections of both countries will probably be asked to reduce their duck shooting this winter to a minimum, so that enough mature birds will survive to breed and thus enable the flocks to replenish themselves with the return of water to the parched areas.

THE INTERNATIONAL PASSAMAQUODDY FISHERIES COMMISSION

THE first members of the scientific staff appointed to investigate the Passamaquoddy fisheries for the