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HENRY B. WARD,
Permanent Secretary

QUOTATIONS

CONSIDER THE ANT

If embryologists and evolutionists find it useful to correlate the structure and functions of man with those of lower animals, is there not reason to believe that something may be learned by comparing the social systems of men and insects? Professor William Morton Wheeler, of Harvard, does so in *The Scientific Monthly*, with results that would have pleased Dean Swift. Some 10,000 species of social insects are doing their best to set an example of loyalty, cooperation and devotion to the highest ideals. Some of these exemplars of correct social behavior began as long as a hundred million years ago to live in model communities. In comparison man is a mere upstart. His age is not more than a million years, so that his community life is but an expression of "social infantilism or immaturity."

If man is socially unstable, it is because of the "problem of the male," in Professor Wheeler's opinion. He is a restless, aggressive criminal. Such insects as the ants, bees and wasps settle the problem he presents by reducing him to futility and elevating the female. Woman reigns supreme among them—several kinds of women, in fact. The termites go even further. Keeping only a single monogamous male, they reduce the queen's offspring to sterility and set them "to work with their equally sterile sisters in the kitchens, dining rooms and nurseries, and at building and defending the termitary instead of permitting them to sit around like a lot of social parasites and annoy the females."

No well-disciplined, self-governing colony of ants or bees would tolerate the conduct of the human male. That worthy, as Professor Wheeler sees him, is forever killing something because he is hungry or because he likes to hunt; fighting with other males for a mate, or struggling for some selfish object. Wasps or bees would not even jail such a creature. They would kill him. From his anthropoid ancestors he has inherited intense egoism, pugnacity and the unsocial instincts that have always kept society in a state of turmoil. Professor Wheeler sees us confronted with a trilemma. We must find some means of socializing the large body of males that threaten to wreck civilization. Or we must return to a more unprogressive society resembling the termite state. Or we must lapse "into something like Spengler's Fellahin society." Professor Ernst Bergmann, of the University of Leipzig, agrees. Crush the male and save society is his formula. Go

to the ant, consider her social ways and be wise.—
The New York Times.

THE BIRTH RATE OF FRANCE

THE bureau of statistics has published a final report on the vital statistics of France in 1933. The general results are frankly unfavorable. There were 40,000 fewer births than in 1932, 200 more deaths and 600 more marriages. The excess of births over deaths was reduced to 21,600, as compared with 61,400 in 1932. The birth rate was reduced from 17.3 to 16.3 per thousand of population; the mortality remained stationary, and the number of marriages showed but slight variation (15.1, as against 15.0). The reduced birth rate is manifest chiefly in the southern departments of France. The central region shows little variation over the previous year. The excess of births over deaths is found chiefly in the departments of the North, West and East and has been so every year for a considerable period. It is surprising that the warmer regions of the South have fewer births, for Italy, under similar conditions, has an excess of births over deaths. In southern France, however, the population is less inclined to work hard. The people live a great deal in the open air and are fond of discussing, to little purpose, questions of politics, while the interest in religious questions is diminished. In place of industrial or agricultural work, they seek positions in the cities as employees or so-called civil servants. In this environment, increases in families appear to be less welcome. On the contrary, in the agricultural regions of Bretagne and Normandy, in which religious sentiments are more manifest and the interest in manual toil is greater, the families are larger. Children work in the fields at an early age. Similar conditions are found in the industrial regions of the North and the East, which are likewise more religious. In these regions school attendance is less rigorously supervised. The mayors of villages who have charge of school matters are inclined to permit peasants to keep their children at home for work in the fields. The conclusion is that the excess of births is in direct relation to the early use of the working power of the child and is in inverse proportion to school attendance, the progress of school instruction and interest in religion. Economic factors appear to be dominant. The number of children is evidently greater in regions where their services are profitable and is diminished in regions where their