DESTINY OF THE HUMAN RACE.

WHAT WILL IT BE?

A TREMENDOUS PROBLEM.

"What is to be the destiny of the human race? Vital statistics when properly studied should help us to frame the answer; though as a rule statisticians are no more prone than the uninstructed public to look so far ahead," announces a writer in the "Times."

"The statistician to the Commonwealth of Australia, Mr. G. H. Knibbs, possesses the philosophic outlook. The first volume of his Appendix to the Census of the Commonwealth, on the natural increase of population, of its character and fluctuations, and of the factors which influence them, contains a volume which, though applied in the first instance to the data of the Australian Census of 1911, is applicable to the same problem in all countries—a kind of mathematical technique, for the analysis of vital phenomena.

TOO MANY PEOPLE?

"In official statistics, as Mr. Knibbs points out, there is an enormous amount of accumulated material which, decade after decade, remains unanalysed and uninterpreted. From these he deduces conclusions that are of great interest as to the destiny of the race.

"An eminent geographer, the late Mr. E. G. Ravenstein, some years ago, when the population of the earth was estimated at 1,500 millions, foretold that about the middle of the century the population would have reached a limit beyond which increase would be disastrous.

"Mr. Knibbs is not so pessimistic and is much more precise; though he defers the disastrous culmination, he has no doubt as to its inevitability. The limits of human expansion, he assures us, are much nearer than popular opinion imagines; the difficulty of food supplies will soon be most grave, the exhaustion of sources of energy necessary for any notable increase of population or comfort in the standards of living, or both combined, is perilously near.

QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

"The present rate of increase in the world's population cannot continue for four centuries; we shall very soon have to consider whether it is better that there should be larger numbers and more modest living, or fewer numbers and lavish living; whether world-morality should aim at the enjoyment of life by a great multitude, or at the restriction of life experience to a few that they may live in relative opulence.

"It has been inferred that almost any population can be provided for. The argument, though plausible, Mr. Knibbs maintains is invalid. If the earth's present population be taken as low even as 1,500 millions (it is more likely 1,700 millions, and its land area, excluding the Arctic and Antarctic, be assumed to be 33,000 million acres, and it is supposed that by some means it is possible to make the whole of this land area yield an average of 2·8 bushels of foodstuffs per acre per annum, the total yield would be only 752,400 million bushels.

HOW CAN THEY BE FED?

"Taking 5·7 bushels per annum as the average individual consumption, one-fourth of the above, the total population which could be fed with 5·7 bushels of foodstuffs per annum, together with other foods in like proportion, would be only 132,000 millions. At the rate of increase of only 0·01 per cent per annum, it would require only 450 years to exhaust the food requirement mentioned. But, Mr. Knibbs maintains, even if every acre could produce as much as 228 bushels per acre, ten times the above amount, with other foods in like proportion, it would take less than 500 years for the population to exhaust the food supply.

TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS.

"In concluding his summary, Mr. Knibbs maintains that we should be seriously reflect ed upon the facts of the last ten decades must realise that within the next ten generations we shall arise and then will touch fundamentally upon the following subjects:—

"(1) The multiplying power of the human race.

"(2) The organic constitution of Nature and the means at human disposal for avoiding the incidence of its unfavourable aspects—i.e., eugenic in its wider sense.

"(3) The enhancing of the productivity of Nature and the limits of its exploitation.

"(4) The mechanism of the social organism and the scheme of its control;

"(5) Internationalism and the solidarity of humanity.

IS HE RIGHT.

"When one realises what has been done during the last century to increase the prosperity of the earth and to discover new sources of power, and the vast increasing benefits bestowed upon humanity by the applied sciences, one cannot help thinking that Mr. Knibbs is too pessimistic. Still a rational demands serious attention. Public opinion ought to be corrected as to the importance of precision in commonsaking; which, as Mr. Knibbs concludes, can only be rightly estimated when the ultimate aim of all statistical inquiry is believed to be 'the study of man's destiny' as of the denizen of a world of limitations."

RACING NOTES.

(By G.G.)

The things I've been called from time to time! On opening the "Gazette" one day last week, in a letter from a correspondent, my eye at once caught "G.G." sprinkled all over it, and next to that I read "rogues and vagabonds"! There must be a Irish, I thought. Surely I can, at last, get some handsome damages from somebody. Alas for my hopes! The reference to "Rogues and Vagabonds" only applied to lottery chaps, I was merely referred to as an "eminent publicist" and spoken of in the same breath as the Editor of the National Review! Eminent Publicist! Well I dunno. I don't suppose the term would really be worth anything in a suit for libel, however clever an advocate were employed, but it is pretty rotten for a professed and acknowledged leading specialist fatuous nonsense to be called such names! I helps me the better to appreciate the lines from "Ginger Mick" in Dennis' Australian Poems:—

"A gallant gentleman!" Well, I dunno.

"I ardly thing that Mick did like that name, But 'ev 'yer 'rent a tolf, an' not to now

The breedin' av the stock from which 'e came, Gallant an' game Mick might' a bin; but

then—

Lord! Fancy 'im among the gentlemen Eminent Publicist! Well I dunno. I feel much as Ginger Mick might have felt, but let it go, it's all in the game.

LAST SATURDAY'S RACES.

Some of you missed a treat last Saturday through not attending the races—not just because absentees lost the opportunity of renewing the dispensation of hospitalities to your very humble servant, but because the show in itself was really worth seeing. I will admit that I had hoped against hope to see some horse racing and anticipated the possibilities of a playful match between Anjy, Anwar and Salhieh, owners up, but the nearest we got was the mule race, upon which I made a sweepstake and had to return all entrance money (without deductions) because we could not get authentic information regarding the winning mule's name and number—that comes of my monopolising the judge's box to view the race! Whilst my appearance in the judge's box might have caused surprise to some few, the change in the Steward's stand was really worthy of particular note, for those who usually adorn this sacred spot had given way to little children "all dressed up" to mark the importance of their new occupation. I wonder whether we are to take this as a happy augury that when racing starts again other children will officiate permanently—young blood is badly needed!

When I watched the dirty jabs the opponents gave one another in the bayonet competition, it left a lasting impression on my mind that it was a real good game to be out of—the wrestling on horseback ran it a good second! Still, I suppose most of the competitors have had much harder biffs since August 1914. Captain Clarke, the energetic Secretary to the organisation of the sports, not only "took part in" the bayonet competition with Lieutenant Ashby, but also ran in the Veterans' race, in which,however,he was a bit fractious at the post! When they did get off he was crazy like a dogy but one could see that he was a trifle on the big side and he could only manage to get third—it was a decent perform ance all the same. I hate to always intrude as the hero, but the Captain's performance calls to mind the one and only flat race in which I ever took part. At that time I was Secretary to the leading athletic club in Portsmouth, chiefly because I had gained a reputation (entirely unearned) for being the least lazy individual in the club. In those days I only possessed one vice, cricket (how they've multiplied!) I was at it before breakfast till it needed a luminous ball to play with at night but I was persuaded to enter for the members' handicap, even if I was let in on the handicap at a regular Ghast weight, I had no serious idea of running. On the morning before the meeting, Sid Thomas (that takes you back a bit!) and our local champion up to a mile gave me a "rough up" among the cabbages, and, of course, I got a good belting. When the Club race came along they had me on! I had promised to "make one" strictly on the understanding that I was permitted to continue wearing my flannels—even in those days I possessed no variety of my lower conformation. The pistol went, but I got stage fright or something, and before I left the mark, most of the field had caught me. Suddenly, I heard our local champion behind me shout "Go it, Ginger!—but I could only finish close up fourth. The things they called me! It appears that, although they said never a word to me, the trial gallop had convinced them that I was the best thing of the day, and they had backed me accordingly! Serve 'em right for keeping the good thing to themselves. They didn't giving tell me I was trying! After that I kept to cricket.

In my anxiety to intrude this story from my old life, I had almost forgotten to record the most noteworthy, yet depressing feature of last Saturday's meeting. There was a scramble competition for horses and after jumping hurdles, fences and stone walls, etc., rough and tumble fashion all over the best (?) of Ghezira grass! I felt that I must cry out, and it was only the restraining hand of a friend which held me back! But suppose they had increased the realism by digging a water jump! It's too painful to contemplate. Even as it is, what a busy time there will be for someone to bring the grass back to normal before next racing season!

WAILING.

After the meeting on Saturday, I came across a "Little group of I-Iads" but not the exact group which inspired the lines recently appearing in the "Gazette." Now, this little group of idiots was only little compared with racing, yet it wailed about the expected reduction of stakes in Cairo and threatened that it would not buy its horses, etc., etc. So recently has it joined in the game, that it may perhaps be permissible to point out a few facts and in particular the increase of stakes.

At the beginning of last year, I "harracked" in the "Egypt Gazette" for bigger prizes and better accommodation for the public at Alexandria. The A.S.C. was making a huge revenue from the Cairo Club and owner's expenses were to the Club alone for a runner was L.E.15! The winner took L.E. 200. There were fifteen horses on the card (two scratched on the day) so that, taking into consideration jockey's fee, travelling expenses, etc., which could bring the total up to about L.E. 20, an owner only had a ten to one chance (L.E. 200 to L.E. 20) with fifteen runners! This system shortly drove owners found everything and the Club got its big event for nothing. I expostd, and although the bravest artillery is required to move the Alexandria Sporting Club the conditions for big races of L.E. 500 were altered to L.E. 2 subscription, L.E. 2 nomination, L.E. 2 if left in after the Tuesday preceding the race—total for a runner L.E. 6. The other prizes, too, went up enormously in proportion. Fourth class from thirty pounds to one hundred, third class from forty to a hundred and twenty, second from sixty to two hundred. Most of you can guess my reward! My harracking for the public has not yet borne fruit, but it may come or there will be a crash of the Grand Stand some day, if nothing worse. I do not believe that any group of owners possesses sufficient knowledge regarding the "reductions," but in any case, a certain few can never come any Cairo Club to do certain things, just because the A.S.C. may do it! The reverse ought to maintain if one considers everything but the size of the stakes! The Cairo Club not only gives fair consideration to owners but also to the public, and every comfort and convenience

(Continued on previous column).

THE NATIVE PRESS.

THE CEREAL MERCHANTS' LICENSES.

The "Ahram."— The Supplies Control Board will begin to give licenses to cereal merchants in Egypt, on Saturday next, in accordance with the rules of the Cereal Merchants' Association. These licenses, without which no merchant will be allowed to deal in grain henceforth, have been made in the form of a small folder with the following statement printed on one side of the ticket: "The bearer of this license is authorised to deal in cereals, of all kinds, on the condition that he follows the rules of the Cereal Merchants' Association and submits to the orders of the S.C.B." The license bears the signature of both the "Chairman of the Cereal Merchants Association in Egypt" (Mr. Ross Taylor) and the chief secretary of the organisation. On the other inner side the name of the licensed merchants is given together with the name of his district, the branch Cereal Committee to which he belongs and the period of the license. It is understood that the licenses expected to be distributed among merchants throughout the country are not fewer than 12,000 in number. Many of the grain merchants in the provinces have not yet applied for licenses, and the Cereal Merchants Association in Cairo has asked its branch committees to make lists of the merchants in their respective districts. What is particularly important in connection with this system is that the "licenses" will be issued by the military authorities for the use of licenses, which has been under consideration, since last week, prevents producers from selling their grain to other persons than those possessed of licenses.

ALEXANDRIA'S PROSTITUTES' NEW QUARTERS.

"Wady el Nil."— The Alexandria City Police have taken steps regarding the purification of Boulevard Ramleh from the "Pensions" evil, but the occupants of those places have simply transferred their occupation to Rue Tewfik which is not less important than Boulevard Ramleh especially as it includes the Governorate House. Is the carrying out of the order in question then meant to make those occupants move from their "pensions" to any other street in the town?

THE ANTI-OPIUM DECREE.

The "Ahram."— The Legislation Commission in the Ministry of Justice has approved of the projected decree prohibiting the cultivation of poppy in Egypt for the time being, during the war, and the document has been sent to the General Assembly of Judges of the Mixed Appeal Court for approval. This shows the regulation will be applied to both natives and foreigners alike. The project is expected to be approved of in a few days' time when it will be sent back to the Council of Ministers to be sanctioned, and it may be before the Council at the meeting to be held on the 25th inst.

LATEST NEWS FROM SYRIA.

"The "Mokattam."— According to the latest news from Syria, the Ottoman Government has lost all communication between the Hauran and other parts of Syria, preventing the Hauranaes, especially the inhabitants of the "Druse Mountain," from going down to Damascus and other towns in the Vilayet of Syria and the people of Beirut. Yesterday, a party of the Hauran. As a result of this step, says our informant, the inhabitants of Syria and the Lebanon have had since then to resort to the region of Tiberia and Merjibn-Amer to buy grain when they have come from the Hauran, and in the nature of things wheat has grown dearer in the Lebanon where it is now being sold at the rate 80 Turkish piastres the oke!

COTTON IN MANOUFEH.

"The "Mokattam."— Our Manouf correspondent states that cultivators there have begun to pick up their new cotton. In certain cases the feddan is yielding 4 cantars from the first picking three cantars and a half, three cantars and a half from a feddan and these are more numerous. There have not yet begun to gather the cotton. The crop is not all had, and there are no purchasers. The cantar is being sold for from P.T.200 to P.T. 500. Producers are showing no desire to offer their cotton for sale in the Cotton Halaks.

THE FLOUR PROBLEM AT ALEXANDRIA.

"Wady el Nil."— The Chairman of the Alexandria Bakers' Association accompanied Mr. Halford, Local Controller of Supplies yesterday and told him that the immense shortage of flour had led to the closing of many bakeries in the town. He also complained to him of the attitude of the flour millers stating that they refuse to give the flour they have any. It appears to us that the bakers' statement is not untrue, for the public is making the same complaint, and there is no doubt that if the present shortage of flour were to last long the problem would become theory and the crisis would disturb people who necessarily want food.

THE CONTROL OF BIRTHS

A MALTHUSIAN ANGLICAN BISHOP.

We extract the following note from a recent "Daily Mail":—

"Germany's idea in the present war was the need of expansion for her growing population. And the Bishop of Hull pleading for peace and if we are to have a League of Nations, the Church must reconsider her attitude of blessing large families and saying "Be fruitful and multiply."

From other papers we learn that this pronouncement had actually been made at a meeting of the Lower House of Convocation of York, that is, at an important gathering of clergymen.Some papers, including the "Church Times," said nothing about the Bishop of Hull's contribution to the discussion. Others omitted the "Be fruitful and multiply" touch. Others, again, announce that he had added that "there must be moral restraint in the size of families."

The London contemporary, commenting on these words of the Bishop, says:—

This does not necessarily mean that the Bishop advocates the Neo-Malthusian teaching of family limitation by abstention. In any case the great matter is that a Bishop has endorsed the Malthusian doctrine that high birth-rates must continue until people have more than two children, for its food supply only increases at a rate of about a 1/2 per cent per annum. It is obvious, therefore, that the choice for the world's inhabitants is between poverty and the danger of war on the one hand, and birth control on the other.

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

JERUSALEM'S WATER SUPPLY.

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS' WORK.

Mr. W.T. Massey, the Press representative with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, contributes the following article to the London newspapers:—

It is doubtful whether the population of any city within the zones of war has profited so much at the hands of the conqueror as that of Jerusalem. In a little more than half a year a wonderful transformation has been effected in the condition of the people and if it were possible to search the Oriental mind and to get a free and frank expression of opinion, you would probably not find one inhabitant who was not devoutly thankful for General Allenby's army's deliverance of the Holy City from the hands of the Turks. And with good reason. The scourge of war, so far as the British Army was concerned, left Jerusalem the Golden untouched. To the 50,000 people in the city today the skilfully-applied military pressure which put an end to Turkish misgovernment was the beginning of an era of happiness and contentment of which they had had no conception. Justice is administered in accordance with British ideals, every man enjoys the profits of his industry, traders do not have to run the gauntlet of extortionate officials, the old-time corruption is a thing of the past, public health is organised on Western lines, and though in matters of sanitation and personal cleanliness the inhabitants have still much to learn, the appearance of the Holy City and its population has vastly improved under the touch of our civilising hand. Sights that offended more than one of the senses on the day when General Allenby made his official entry have disappeared, and peace and order reign where previously there was misery, poverty, disease, and squalor.

One of the biggest blots upon the Turkish government of the city was the total failure to provide an adequate water supply. What they could not or would not do in three years of 400 years his Majesty's Royal Engineers accomplished in a little more than two months, and now for the first time in history every civilian in Jerusalem can obtain as much pure mountain spring water as he wishes, fresh and bright as any bubbling out of Welsh hills. The picturesque (though usually unclean) water-carrier is passing into the limbo of forgotten things, and his energies are being diverted into other channels. The genus that crowded his leathern water-bags will no longer endanger the lives of the citizens, and the deadly perils which lurk in cistern-water have been, to a large extent, removed.

A ROMAN AQUEDUCT.

For its water Jerusalem used to rely mainly upon the winter rainfall to fill its cisterns. Outside the city there was a subterranean reservoir, and it is estimated if all were full they would contain 360,000,000 gallons, But many had fallen into disrepute and were not fit for the whole, of them required thorough cleansing. One recently inspected by the sanitary department had not been emptied for ninety years. To supplement the cistern supply the Mosque of Omar reservoir halved with Bethlehem the water which flowed from near Solomon's Pools down an aqueduct constructed by Roman engineers under Herod before the Saviour was born. This was not nearly sufficient, nor was it so constant a supply as that provided by our Army engineers. They went farther afield. They found a group of springheads in an absolutely clean gathering ground on the hills yielding some 1,000 gallons an hour, and this water, which was running to waste, is lifted to the top of a hill from which it flows by gravity through a long pipe line into Jerusalem. Supplies of this beautiful water are sent to the hospitals,and at standpipes all over the city the inhabitants take as much as they desire. The water consumption of the people has become ten times what it was last year, and this fact alone tells how the boon is appreciated.

The scheme does not stop at putting up standpipes for those who will fetch the water. A portion of the contents of the cisterns was taken for watering troop horses in the spring—troops were not allowed to drink it. The water level of these cisterns is low, and as they are getting emptied, the authorities arrange for refilling them on the one condition that they are first thoroughly cleaned out and put in order. They will not be parties to the perpetuation of a system which permits of good crystal water becoming foul. A householder has merely to apply to the Military Governor for water, and a sanitary officer inspects the cistern, orders it to be cleansed and sees that it is done, the department of public health grants a certificate that the cistern is clean, and the engineers run a pipe to it and it is filled, no matter what its capacity may be. Two cisterns were recently replenished with between 60,000 and 70,000 gallons of sparking water from the hills in place of water heavily charged with the accumulation of summer dust on roofs. And the first of Jerusalem's people to see this sampled it, is not as clean as desert sand.

The installation of the supply was a triumph for the Royal Engineers. A preliminary inspection and survey of the ground was made on February 14, and a scheme was submitted four days later. Owing to the shortage of transport and abnormally bad weather, work could not be commenced till April 12. Many miles of pipe-line had to be laid and a powerful pumping plant erected, but water was being delivered to the people of Jerusalem in June 18. There has not been a stoppage or a hitch. Other military works have done much for the common good in Palestine, but none of them are of greater utility than this. Jerusalemites seeing bright water flow into Jerusalem, regarded it as one of the wonders of all time.

IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

Those who have watched the ceaseless activities of the public health administration are not surprised at the remarkable improvement in the sick and death rate, not only of Jerusalem, but of all the towns and districts. The new water supply will unquestionably help to further lower the figures. A medical authority tells us the health of the community is wonderfully good, and there is no suspicion of cholera outbreaks of which were frequent under the Turkish régime. Government hospitals are established in all large centres, and frequent medical treatment is given to the indigent. In Palestine, where smallpox has taken a heavy toll, the "conscription epidemic" is unknown, and many thousands of natives in the past few months have come forward of their own free will to be vaccinated. Typhus and relapsing fever, both life-borne diseases, used to claim many victims, but the figures are falling very rapidly, the largely, no doubt, to the full use to which disinfecting plants are put in all areas in occupied territory. The virtues of personal cleanliness are being taught, and the people are given that personal attention which was entirely lacking under Turkish rule. It is difficult to overcome the prejudices and cure the habits of thousands of years, but progress is made surely, if slowly,and already there is a gratifying improvement in the people's condition. That is patent to any observer.

In Jerusalem an infants' welfare bureau has been instituted, where mothers are seen before and after childbirth ,infants' clinics are being established, a body of health visitors is in process of formation, and a kitchen is about to be opened to provide food for babies and the poor. The nurses are mainly local subjects, who have to undergo a thorough training, and there is no one here who does not confidently predict a rapid fall in the infant mortality rate, which, to the shame of the Turkish administration, was fully a dozen times that of the highest of English towns. The administration of the medical staff of the Occupied Enemy Territory Administration. The call was urgent, and though labouring under war-time difficulties, they got things going quickly and the Swiss voluntary societies are now assisting, and the enthusiasm of the American Red Cross units, which have recently arrived with an admirable equipment will enable all to carry out a great and beneficent work. Palestine is indeed a brighter and happier land than it was nine months ago.

THE WAR AND DIVORCE.

EXTRAORDINARY INCREASE IN CASES.

While the ordinary work of the London Courts has been much reduced by the war, the business of Divorce Court has increased by leaps and bounds. The average number of divorce petitions in prewar days was less than 1,000 a year. During the war, the annual number has increased to nearly 1,500, a large majority of the petitions being presented by husbands. Before the war the majority of the petitioners were wives.

Men in the Army are making an increasing use of the "Poor Persons" scheme. Last year, in London alone, 3,353 applications were made under the scheme, of which more than 2,500 related to divorce proceedings. The number would, no doubt, be larger still if applicants were not required to provide the "out-of-pocket" expenses of the solicitors assigned to them. A certain class of solicitors, it is said, is much impeding the success of the scheme by practices which the Law Society ought sternly to suppress.

COTTON SHIPS FOR SEPTEMBER.

The Liverpool cotton market yesterday, says the "Manchester Guardian" of the 16th August, received the interesting news that the September freight allotment from the United States is 40,000 tons, including the amount required for cotton sold on priority certificates. This is 10,000 tons more than was originally allotted for August and 15,000 tons over the May allotment. It means that over 150,000 bales may be expected. When the last cotton was taken the consumption of American was stated to be 45,000 bales per week.

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