

Schafer, for whom he acted as assistant. After a year as Carnegie Research Fellow, at the end of which he obtained his Ph.D., he took up the study of medicine and graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1929. In the following year he was appointed assistant lecturer in pharmacology in the University of Manchester. He was next transferred to the department of physiology as lecturer and afterwards appointed as reader in experimental physiology. For several years he has acted as assistant director of the Physiological Laboratories and as tutor and secretary to the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Schlapp's early research work was concerned with the separation and physiological action of the active principles of the posterior lobe of the pituitary gland. More recently, among other things, he has carried out valuable work on ventricular fibrillation and, with Prof. Bentley, on the effects of pressure and anoxæmia on peripheral nerves. He is at present engaged in the study of pulse wave velocity making use of oscillographic records, and of experimental auricular fibrillation. He will bring to the chair a wide knowledge of teaching, research and administration which will be of great value.

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Dr. Max Hartmann

DR. MAX HARTMANN, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Biologie, spent his seventieth birthday on July 7 on his small farm in the Allgäu. One of the outstanding personalities among German biologists of his generation, he can look back upon a fine record of original research, particularly in the field of sexuality and fertilization in Protozoa and Algæ. His investigations of 'relative sexuality' have led to very important biochemical studies of the substances produced and released by gametes and essential for fertilization in Algæ, echinoderms, molluscs and fishes (cf. Lord Rothschild's article in *Nature* of June 1, p. 720). Realizing the great opportunities opened up by the transition from the morphological to the experimental approach to biological problems, he has been singularly successful in guiding a large number of young workers to new and fruitful fields of research, inspiring them with his own enthusiasm for every great discovery made, whether in protozoology, cytology, genetics, experimental embryology or physiology. His capacity for critically sifting and clarifying the progress made is well reflected in his "Allgemeine Biologie", of which the third edition is now in the press. Dr. Hartmann was a fearless and outspoken critic of Nazism.

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Tercentenary of Flamsteed

THE Rev. John Flamsteed, who in 1675 became the first Astronomer Royal, was also from 1684 rector of Burstow, Surrey, and at his death in 1719 was buried in the chancel of this parish church. It was fitting, therefore, that the tercentenary of his birth should be commemorated there, and at the conclusion of the afternoon service on Sunday, August 18, the present Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, gave an impressive address on his illustrious predecessor. In academic dress the Astronomer Royal stood at the chancel steps of the singularly pleasing church. In the stalls on either side sat the present rector, the Rev. Arthur Hackblock, and the Rural Dean, Canon Godwin, and the choir of the Women's Institute. In the background could be seen the window and tablets erected to Flamsteed's memory in 1887 by the late J. J. Tustin. The whole setting was of quiet

beauty, and the occasion will be long remembered. In his address, Sir Harold Spencer Jones told of Flamsteed's perseverance amid many difficulties and his firm determination that nothing but the greatest possible accuracy should come from his labours. It was listened to by a large congregation, which included representatives of the Royal Astronomical Society, the British Astronomical Association, the Royal Observatory, the Clockmakers' Company and the Newcomen Society. Flamsteed's birthplace was Denby, near Derby, and a commemoration service was also held there.

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Population Policy in Great Britain

A BROADSHEET, "Population—a Challenge and a Choice", No. 251, issued by Political and Economic Planning attempts to re-state clearly and simply the arguments for and against a determined effort to alter the population trend in Great Britain, discussing the economic prospects in relation to that trend, the internal social effects which would flow from certain trends and the effects on our international position. There is no purely eugenic argument as to the effects of population trend on the average inherited qualities of the population as a whole; but the importance of quantity in relation to the distribution of age-groups and in relation to the best training and use of the raw materials of population is emphasized throughout. Now that our numbers are within our own control and the standard of living for women is a major interest in our national life, it is concluded that the choice of family size which would be made by parents, if they considered only their own personal and social development and reasonable standards of life for themselves, would strike too low a level to maintain our numbers. There are no reliable signs that this tendency will be arrested, and it is urged that to such factors as improved social services connected with parenthood there must be added a willing and confident acceptance of the demands which are made of us as a community if we are to play a worthy part in the world, and a new attitude to parenthood which will modify calculations of purely personal comfort or competition.

Action should be taken quickly; for the economic position of Great Britain enforces the need for a population policy. The rapid decline of population facing us in the last part of this century will involve waste of resources and endanger initiative and technical progress. Furthermore, the process of decline has serious social effects, such as an increasingly heavy proportion of old people, less flexibility in readjustment and an old people's influence in politics which tends to perpetuate a bias in their favour. The argument for an immediate population policy is decisive when the choice is related to the international field, but involves a decision as to the part Great Britain is to play in the world. Whether it is our work of training and education in East Africa, by our counsels and experience in helping the United Nations towards a peaceful and just solution of their difficulties, or in playing a leading part in the association of free British nations within the Commonwealth, the broadsheet suggests that Britain has yet a mission. In the coming era, Britain's influence will be maintained more by the economic adviser and the scientific worker than by the nineteenth-century methods of the armed soldier, and these young men cannot be provided in the numbers required from a population of thirty million.