numbers of gametes G , bearing albino with pink-eye, and G' bearing colour with pink-eye. Consequently from $GG' \times GG'$ we expect and obtain $GG + 2GG' + G'G'$; and from $GG' \times G$ equal numbers (approximately) of GG and GG' . So far, GG are pink-eyed albinos; GG' are dark-eyed with some colour in coat; $G'G'$ are pink-eyed, but with some colour in coat.

If we do not consider what particular colour GG' and $G'G'$ will have, we may treat all gametes G' as identical. But after crossing with albino such a condition would be unusual. The colour brought in by the original G' is generally in part resolved, and various sorts of G' gametes are formed, viz. aG' , bG' , cG' , $abcG'$, &c. Therefore when the hybrids breed together there will be GG' zygotes of several colours, viz. $G.aG'$, $G.bG'$, $G.cG'$, &c.; also $G'G'$ zygotes of several colours, viz. $aG'.aG'$, $aG'.bG'$, &c. Each combination will have its appropriate colour and frequency, though (if the regularity be maintained) all GG' will have dark eyes and some colour, and all $G'G'$ pink eyes and some colour. But as the hybrid produces G gametes equal in number to the various G' gametes collectively, $GG' \times GG'$ will give on an average one albino in four offspring (experiment gave nine in thirty-seven); and there is no question of one in nine. We are only concerned with one hypothesis (that I have set forth in "Mendel's Principles of Heredity," p. 29), and with this hypothesis the published facts are in admirable agreement.

Heterogeneous offspring from crossing two seemingly pure races may seem to Prof. Weldon an "amazing" phenomenon, but it is one with which the breeder early becomes familiar. Even albinos need not be pure or their gametes homogeneous in characters other than albinism.

Grantchester, Cambridge, May 1.

W. BATESON.

MR. BATESON reconciles his statements in NATURE of March 19 and April 23 by explaining that in his first letter, when he describes certain mice as of constitution $G'G'$, he is deliberately denoting a whole series of different gametes by the same name.

The suggested heterogeneity among the gametes of pure albinos is now said to affect characters other than albinism, and is therefore wholly irrelevant. The avowed vagueness in the use of the symbol G' makes it uncertain whether the fawn-and-white mice are now supposed to produce gametes of different character (with regard to coat-colour and eye-colour) or not. If the gametes of all the fawn-and-white mice used are similar, then all hybrids between these and albino mice are of similar constitution, and the fact that some are yellow, some grey, and some black is left unaccounted for. If the fawn-and-white mice produce even three kinds of gametes, G'_1 , G'_2 and G'_3 , then on crossing with albinos the hybrids GG'_1 , GG'_2 and GG'_3 may be of different coat-colour; but since the fawn-and-white mice always breed true to colour when paired *inter se*, it surely follows that the combinations $G'_1G'_1$, $G'_1G'_2$, $G'_2G'_2$, &c., which arise from such unions (some homozygotes and some heterozygotes) give rise to mice of similar colour. It is this consequence of heterogeneity in a pure-breeding race which seems to me amazing.

In assuming that coat-colour is resolved into simpler elements when hybrids form their gametes, Mr. Bateson follows Mendel; but in such cases Mendel assumes that all the various kinds of gametes, produced by the hybrid, occur with equal frequency, and Mr. Bateson has elsewhere attempted to bring this assumption into relation with the phenomena of cell-division ("Mendel's Principles of Heredity," p. 30). In trying to fit Mr. Darbishire's facts by a Mendelian formula, Mr. Bateson abandons this hypothesis; he now says that a hybrid mouse produces (1) a series of different kinds of colour-bearing gametes, and (2) a number of gametes bearing the characters white coat and pink eye, equal to the sum of all the other kinds of gametes together. This departure from Mendel's hypothesis is masked in Mr. Bateson's first letter by the simple device of calling the whole series of different colour-bearing gametes by the same name G' .

Mendel's own view of the way in which compound characters behave gives a maximum possibility of one pure

recessive albino among sixteen offspring of hybrids; a non-Mendelian view, lately put forward by Mr. Bateson in another case of colour-resolution (*Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc.*, vol. xii. p. 52), gives a maximum of one in nine; the view he now suggests for mice gives one in four. By modifying first one and then another of Mendel's statements, his name is made to shelter almost any hypothesis, and almost any experimental test is evaded.

In the next number of *Biometrika* Mr. Darbishire will publish a series of new results, which have an important bearing on the application of Mendel's "principles" to his mice. Until these new facts are available, I do not think further discussion will be profitable, and therefore I do not propose to continue this correspondence.

Oxford May 6.

W. F. R. WELDON.

[This correspondence must now cease.—Ed.]

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

THE International Meteorological Committee appointed by the Paris Congress of 1896 in succession to those appointed by previous congresses, commencing with the Vienna Congress of 1873, will meet this year at Southport during the session of the British Association, September 9 to 16. The committee held a single meeting in the room at the top of the Eiffel Tower in 1900; its last normal session was at St. Petersburg in 1899. It has not met in England for twenty-six years. The original "permanent" committee was appointed by the Vienna Congress in 1873, and consisted of six members under the presidency of Buys Ballot; its successor now numbers seventeen members, representing a large number of the official meteorological organisations of the world. Prof. Mascart, of the Bureau Central Météorologique of France, is president, and Prof. H. H. Hildebrandsson, of the Royal Observatory of Upsala, is secretary, having been elected to that office on the resignation of Mr. Scott, who was secretary from 1874 (the Utrecht meeting) until the close of 1899. The other members are Prof. von Bezold (German Empire), Prof. Billwiller (Switzerland), Captain Chaves (Azores, Portugal), W. Davis (Argentina), Sir J. Eliot, K.C.I.E. (India), Prof. S. Hepites (Roumania), Prof. H. Mohn (Norway), Prof. Willis L. Moore (United States), Prof. L. Palazzo (Italy), Prof. Paulsen (Denmark), Prof. J. M. Pernter (Austria), Mr. H. C. Russell, C.M.G. (Australia), General Rykatcheff (Russia), Mr. W. N. Shaw (Great Britain), and Prof. H. Snellen (Holland).

The functions of the committee are to discuss meteorological questions of international interest and formulate proposals for international cooperation in connection therewith. The deliberations have an official character in virtue of the committee being appointed by a congress of representatives delegated in response to an official invitation of one or other of the European Governments, but the committee has no executive authority. It has been the practice for the committee to appoint from time to time various "commissions" or subcommittees to prepare reports upon questions that require preliminary discussion. The members of these subcommittees are not necessarily members of the international committee. They meet from time to time on the invitation of their respective chairmen, and opportunity is often taken of the occasion of the meeting of a subcommittee to obtain more general discussion by inviting other persons interested in the special subjects to take part in the proceedings, and sometimes to become members of the subcommittee. There are at present five subcommittees, constituted as follows:—