

International Management Institute

THE annual report of the International Management Institute, Geneva, for 1932 indicates that the work of the Institute has been well maintained in spite of some reduction in financial resources. Membership showed a decline of 5-6 per cent but relations with the national management associations have been maintained, the need for co-operation and centralisation being increasingly felt. Management research groups have continued to be active—both the international groups, such as those for textiles, office management and paper manufacture, and also the national groups in Great Britain and other countries. Various services have been rendered to the League of Nations and to the International Labour Office, including a study of certain sections of the Secretariat and the study of the human factor in rationalisation. International co-operation on distribution problems has been fostered, as well as the application of scientific principles to public administration. If progress has been slower than had been hoped, the Institute has already done notable work and is steadily promoting the application of scientific principles not only to individual business enterprises but also to the whole economic structure, industrial and international. It steadfastly seeks to bring to the vast problem of distribution to public administration, as well as into the sphere of politics the same methods of thought and work—scientific analysis of the facts, co-operative working out of the best methods of performing the task in hand, the adoption of these methods according to a well-conceived and flexible plan, and co-operation both on a national and an international scale.

Eugenic Sterilisation in the United States

As referred to in the leading article on p. 221 of this issue, twenty-seven states in the United States now have eugenic sterilisation laws, and the Human Betterment Foundation, Pasadena, California, has completed a tabulation of all official sterilisations in the United States. These numbered 10,877 up to the end of 1929, and 16,066 in the following three years to the end of 1932, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. It should be understood that sterilisation, as now performed, does not in any way unsex the individual except in making parenthood impossible, is rarely performed without the consent of the next of kin, and is chiefly applied to mental defectives, whose taint is so frequently transmitted to their children. A critical survey of 6,000 cases during the last twenty years shows that the families of the sterilised patients generally approve of the operation, and of the patients themselves 6 cases out of every 7 appear to be satisfied with the results. Many feeble-minded girls have married after sterilisation, and the majority of these marriages have been reasonably successful. Whereas three-fourths of these feeble-minded girls were sex delinquents before sterilisation, only one in every 12 has been a sex offender after sterilisation. Sterilisation permits many patients to return to their homes who otherwise would be

confined in institutions, and thus eases the burden of the taxpayer, and is one practical step in the prevention of racial deterioration.

Politics and Religion in India

NATURE has hitherto refrained from further comment on the progress of discussion in relation to the political future of India, as for the moment it had passed from the field in which the results of scientific investigation of Indian peoples and institutions might usefully be applied. Attention has now, however, once more been directed to the larger issue of the applicability of western democratic institutions to an eastern community of heterogeneous composition in the evidence before the Joint Select Committee of Mr. M. K. Acharya, a representative of the All-India Varnashram Swarajya Sangha, which was reported in the *Times* of August 5. In the course of evidence it was claimed that this organisation represents 170,000,000 Hindus "who are not heterodox and are not denationalized". It is of little moment whether this claim can be fully substantiated, or whether any attempt should be made hereafter to discredit Mr. Acharya. He admits that he has broken his caste and on his return to India will have to undergo penance in accordance with the well-known rule affecting high-class Hindus who cross the seas. It is important to recognise that he represents an important body of Hindu opinion, whatever its exact dimensions may be, which is largely inarticulate; but for which religious observances are of more importance than political advancement. This feeling is not blindly conservative and obstructive; it is cultural. Mr. Acharya's replies, when questioned on such subjects as the relation of social reform to the fundamentals of religion, child marriage and suttee, deserve careful consideration, not as pointing to the necessity for any reversal of policy in these matters, but as indicative of the principles which should be observed in reform. The suggested utilisation of the village councils, for example, in preference to a lowering of the franchise, is more fully in accord with Indian institutions than any system which exalts the individual but ignores the social group of which he is an integral part.

The Dungeness Sanctuary

DUNGENESS Promontory, famous amongst bird-lovers as the last refuge of the Kentish plover and the home of the stone-curlew and many other interesting shore-birds, is the only remaining natural and undisturbed area of any size on the south-east coast of Great Britain. A year or two ago, the key position of the area was threatened by the building contractor, and it was saved by the sacrifice of Mr. R. B. Burrowes, a retired teacher, formerly in the Electrical Department of Liverpool Technical College. Mr. Burrowes obtained an option upon the site at a cost of £5,585, which meant the selling or mortgaging of the whole of his possessions. The Committee of the Dungeness Preservation Fund is anxious to refund at least £1,740 of this amount, so that the donor may regain possession of certain bonds and securities