

81 statements by *D* are considered, and each remark in the table is followed by "T" or "L", representing "truth" or "lie", and by the number of such remarks in the 81 cases. For brevity, the following symbols have been adopted:

→ means "asserts that"; + means "tells the truth";
← .. "denies that"; - ,, "lies".

It will be seen that only lines 6 and 10 of *A*'s statements satisfy the conditions of the problem, giving 4 cases in which *D* lies to 4 in which he speaks the truth, so that the 'chance' that *D* speaks the truth is $\frac{1}{2}$, as in the simplified problem. (Incidentally, it will be noted that *A* lies every time he makes the statement in the problem, so that it would appear to be impossible for *B* to

deny that *C* declares that *D* lies—further evidence of artificiality.)

The "likelihood" I calculate as follows:

The probability that *A* tells the truth is $\frac{1}{2}$. Hence the probability that *B* denies that *C* declares that *D* lies is $\frac{1}{2}$.

If *B* denies that *C* declares that *D* lies, the probability that his denial is false (that is, that *C* does declare that *D* lies) is $\frac{2}{3}$. Hence the absolute probability that *C* declares that *D* lies is $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$.

If *C* does declare that *D* lies, the probability that *D* tells the truth is $\frac{2}{3}$. Hence the absolute probability (that is, the 'likelihood') that *D* tells the truth is $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{2}{9}$.

The 'probability', of course, is $\frac{1}{3}$.

¹ NATURE, 135, 451, 1073; 1935. 136, 301, Aug. 24; 1935.
² NATURE, 135, 451; 1935.

News and Views

British Association: Officers and Meetings

At the meeting at Norwich of the General Committee of the British Association, Sir Josiah Stamp, General Treasurer of the Association, was elected president for 1936. Sir Josiah, who is chairman of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, was president in 1930–32 of the Royal Statistical Society and enjoys an international reputation as an economist. The office of General Treasurer of the Association has been filled by the election of Prof. P. G. H. Boswell, until now one of the General Secretaries. Prof. F. J. M. Stratton, the other General Secretary, decided not to offer himself for re-election, so it became necessary to appoint two new general secretaries. These offices have been filled by the election of Mr. F. T. Brooks, reader in mycology in the University of Cambridge, and Prof. Alan Ferguson, assistant professor of physics at Queen Mary College, London. The new members of council are Lord Bledisloe, Prof. W. G. Fearnside, Prof. Julian S. Huxley, Prof. R. Robinson, Dr. C. Tierney and Sir Gilbert Walker. Future meetings of the Association are announced for Blackpool (1936), Nottingham (1937), Cambridge (1938), Dundee (1939) and Australia (1940); and it is suggested that a selected party be sent in the winter of 1937–38 to take part in the jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress.

A Darwin Commemoration

SECTION D (Zoology) of the British Association devoted the afternoon of September 6 to the commemoration of the centenary of the landing of Charles Darwin on the Galapagos Islands, and of the birth of the hypothesis of the "Origin of Species". He landed on September 16, 1835, and during the five weeks he spent in the archipelago his observations

included those on birds and reptiles recorded in his note-book, as quoted by Mrs. Barlow in her letter published in NATURE of September 7, p. 391. The clear differences presented more especially by the finches and the giant tortoises found on the different islands, led Darwin to a highly important line of thought and to the realisation that his facts, if well founded, "would undermine the stability of species". In an introductory address, Sir Edward Poulton gave an outline of the observations made by Darwin on the fauna of the islands, as a result of which he became convinced that he must abandon the idea of the separate creation of species though he was then unable to account for their origin. Sir Edward then reviewed evolutionary thought during the past century, especially in relation to the theory of natural selection. Prof. J. H. Ashworth gave an account of Darwin as a student in Edinburgh from 1825 until 1827 with particular reference to the development of his early taste for natural history and collecting, and concluded that in Edinburgh Darwin laid the foundation of his knowledge of the science of natural history. Prof. G. D. H. Carpenter spoke on Darwin and entomology, and cited examples in support of the theory of natural selection. Prof. E. W. MacBride spoke on Darwin and the problem of the population of the Galapagos Islands, and expressed his dissent from Sir Edward Poulton's views on the value of natural selection as a cause of evolution. Mr. H. W. Parker gave an account of the present distribution of the reptiles in the Islands, pointed out that two of the species found by Darwin were extinct and the others by no means common, and that the danger of extinction of other species had been recently realised by the Government of Ecuador. We hope shortly to publish an account of this interesting commemoration.