

the Foundling Hospital in London a scheme for utilizing their residential nursery, day nursery and nursery school at Coram Gardens for teaching and research purposes. It was also suggested that a maternity and child welfare centre might be started on the same site. The next development arose when the Central Council for Training in Child Care, concerned with the training of boarding-out officers and house mothers under the Children's Act, found a shortage of seniors who could take up posts of a supervisory character or as tutors in the various education schemes. The Institute of Education of the University of London and the Institute of Child Health therefore decided to put forward a plan for a joint training and research centre at the Foundling Hospital site. This was discussed with representatives of the Home Office, of the Ministry of Health and of the London County Council Public Health and Education Departments. Eventually a scheme was agreed, under which the financing of the teaching side would be undertaken by the Institute of Education and that of the research side shared between this Institute and the Institute of Child Health with the approval of the University of London authorities.

On the training side the first course will begin immediately. Provision has been made for the appointment of a senior tutor and a junior tutor and for visiting lecturers. Dr. Agatha Bowley has been appointed senior lecturer in child care and Miss J. E. Cass as tutor in child care. Members of the teaching staff of both Institutes will take part in the course. Miss Cass has also been appointed honorary educational supervisor to the day nursery on the Foundling Hospital site, so that there may be general co-operation with the staff in relation to the training of probationers for the National Nursery Certificate. On the research side, provision has been made for two educational research assistants, for a part-time medical assistant and for part-time assistance from the Child Guidance Clinic at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Plans for a pilot survey are well advanced. In addition to detailed observations on children in the nurseries and nursery schools, it is planned to extend the investigation to babies in the same area who are not attending such institutions. In this way one of the objects of the research programme is to attempt to assess the educational values or disadvantages of the nursery or nursery school. Those concerned with the planning are endeavouring to take a long view, hoping to follow children through the nursery school to the primary school period and even eventually to adolescence in the youth centre activities in the Harmsworth Memorial Playground, also on the site of the original Foundling Hospital.

### Effect of the Severe Winter of 1946-47 on Bird Life

N. F. TICEHURST and P. H. T. Hartley (*British Birds*, 41, No. 11, November 1948) have examined 121 reports on the effects of the hard weather of early 1947 on bird life. February 1947 was the coldest month in Britain since 1895, and, in some parts of the country, temperatures were lower than any noted since records were begun in 1815. Many species of birds were greatly reduced in numbers; but one of the striking features of the collated reports is the lack of any consistency in the proportionate reduction of numbers of groups of allied or ecologically similar species. For example, in the Wirral peninsula tree-creepers were scarcely affected, though nuthatches

were much reduced; but on the Surrey-Sussex border tree-creepers suffered heavily and nuthatches not at all. In south-west Devon and in Cardigan, blackbirds suffered heavier reduction than song-thrushes; in the rest of the country blackbirds fared much better than song-thrushes. The diminutions of the stocks of the various species over the country as a whole shows few consistent trends, and probably the only general statements which can be made are that some specimens of most of the winter residents of Britain were found dead, there were relatively few reports of icing of plumage or feet—a cause of mortality frequently recorded in 1939-40—and that there were many reports of unusual shifts of birds in search of food.

### Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Bengal

At the hands of scholars of the new Dominion, Indian botany may <sup>now</sup> be said to be on its way and making good progress on a wide front. This is apparent from a survey of the contents of recent journals. The second volume of the new *Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Bengal* (April 1948) contains papers on cytology, genetics, comparative and developmental morphology, mycology and physiology. Thus the aim of the *Bulletin*, to publish original researches, is being fulfilled. This aim is in no sense marred by the fact that in this, as in other Indian botanical journals, plants of economic importance are often selected for special study; on the contrary, the indigenous and introduced crops, in their many aspects, afford materials of remarkable interest for the investigator; for example, mangoes and bananas among tropical fruits, rice among cereals, and jute among textiles. Papers relating to these crops appear in the current number, while a review of the Bignoniaceæ of India and Burma serves to remind us of the floristic wealth of this great sub-continent.

### Advisory Committee on Medical Nomenclature and Statistics

THE Registrar General announces that his Advisory Committee on Medical Nomenclature and Statistics, the function of which is to consider from the medical point of view and to advise upon questions affecting the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, and any other matters concerning medical nomenclature or statistics which may be referred to the Committee, is constituted as follows: Sir Ernest Rock Carling (chairman); Sir Allen Daley, chairman of the Council of the Society of Medical Officers of Health; medical officer of health and school medical officer, London County Council; Prof. Ernest Finch, emeritus professor of surgery, University of Sheffield; Dr. F. H. K. Green, assistant secretary, Medical Research Council; Dr. C. F. Harris, dean of the Medical College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Prof. A. Bradford Hill, professor of medical statistics, University of London; Prof. A. J. Lewis, professor of psychiatry, University of London; Dr. A. Massey, chief medical officer, Ministry of National Insurance; Dr. P. L. McKinlay, superintendent of statistics, General Registry Office, Edinburgh; Prof. N. C. W. Nixon, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, University of London; Dr. W. N. Pickles, medical officer of health, Aysgarth, Yorkshire; Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith, Nuffield reader in pathology, University of Oxford; Dr. Percy Stocks, chief medical statistician, General Register Office; Prof. R. E. Tunbridge, professor of medicine, University of Leeds; Sir Lionel Whitby, regius professor of physic, Department of Medicine, Univ-