

Since its comparatively recent introduction into Egypt the pink boll-worm, *Pectinophora (Gelechia) gossypiella*, has so rapidly increased that it has for some years been the chief insect pest of cotton. Much scientific work is being done on its life-history and on its effect on the cotton crop with the view of attacking the pest in the most effective manner, as it may now be classed on a par with the Phylloxera of vines for destructiveness. Field experiments indicate that the effect of *Gelechia* attack may be rendered less harmful by reducing the water-supply in July and stopping it altogether after the first week in August, as by this means the yield of cotton is increased and the crop ripens earlier.

During the last sixteen years the farmers of Cyprus have exhibited an enlightened and receptive attitude towards modern agricultural methods, with the result that considerable improvements have taken place in the agriculture of the island. These changes are set forth by Mr. W. Bevan in the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute (vol. xvii., No. 3, pp. 302-58), and the resources and possibilities of the island are briefly summarised. About 1,200,000 acres are under cultivation, but another 770,000 acres are either under forest or could be cultivated. The average rainfall is about 20 in. per annum, and the climate, especially in the plains, shows considerable extremes of temperature. Agriculture is the main industry, but methods and appliances are behind the times, though improvements are being effected through the activities of the Agricultural Department. Irrigation is essential, and if a satisfactory solution of the water problem could be reached, large fertile areas which now have to remain fallow could be brought under cultivation for growing cotton and other similar crops and for extending vegetable and fruit culture. A considerable amount of stock-raising is carried on, sheep-rearing being an important industry. Cheese and butter are made from sheep's and goat's milk, largely for home consumption, though some is exported to Egypt. Poultry-farming could be made very profitable, as the climate and food-supply are suitable, but ignorance of proper management at present hinders the industry from prospering.

The chief cereals grown are wheat, barley, and oats, though maize and rye have been introduced during the last few years. Fruit-growing is of much importance, and the export trade in this respect is considerable, some amount of wine and spirits also being produced and sent abroad. Market-gardening is receiving much attention, as there is a good demand in Egypt for fresh vegetables which are raised round the "ports" of Cyprus.

Heredity and Eugenics.

DR. R. RUGGLES GATES contributes to the latest number of the *Eugenics Review* a valuable essay on heredity and eugenics. "Probably in no other species of animal or plant does the number of differences between individuals approach the number to be observed in man." "It has now become a commonplace of observation that the differences between organisms, as well as their resemblances, are often inherited." Heredity includes both the entailment of parental variations and the possibility of new variations. A very interesting survey is taken of the inheritance of both physical and mental characters in man. Eugenic action should include, if only there were sufficient knowledge, (1) positive selection for desirable qualities, which are frequently dominant; (2) negative selection against undesirable recessive qualities which appear in collateral or ancestral lines,

and may therefore be carried in the family germ-plasm; (3) isolation of individuals having undesirable dominant qualities; and (4) an effort to foster matings between individuals showing the same desirable recessive quality. Another interesting feature of Dr. Ruggles Gates's paper is the discussion of the question whether there are any details of structure so small or of such a nature as to be beyond the reach of hereditary entailment. Some good examples are given of the continuance of very minute structural idiosyncrasies. As regards the inbreeding and outbreeding of human races, the author concludes that intermixture of unrelated races is from every point of view undesirable. "The more advanced race is diluted and degraded by such intermixture." "The blend is only a blend when considered *en masse*." On the other hand, interbreeding of related races or strains gives increased vigour.

University and Educational Intelligence.

ABERDEEN.—The Lord Rector, Lord Cowdray, will deliver his address in the Mitchell Hall on October 23.

Dr. J. B. Orr, director of the Rowett Research Institute, has been appointed research lecturer in the physiology of nutrition for the ensuing academical year, and Mr. R. H. A. Plimmer, chief biochemist, re-appointed research lecturer in applied biochemistry.

CAMBRIDGE.—Mr. S. M. Wadham, Christ's College, has been appointed senior demonstrator in botany, and Mr. R. E. Holthum, St. John's College, junior demonstrator.

LONDON.—In response to a request made by many of those who attended Dr. Jeffery's public lecture on Einstein's theory of relativity, a course of eight lectures on the same subject by Dr. Jeffery has been arranged at University College. The course will begin on Monday, October 25, at 6 p.m.

A course of ten public lectures on "The Development of Philosophy from Descartes to Leibniz" is being given at King's College by Prof. H. Wildon Carr on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m. The course commenced on October 12.

OXFORD.—The new academical year has begun with a very large number of fresh entries. The colleges are almost inconveniently full, and most of the scientific departments are overcrowded. The activities of the teaching staff of both University and colleges are being taxed to the utmost. A contributing cause of the present pressure upon the resources of accommodation and teaching is the influx of women students, who are now to be seen in the academic costume lately devised for their use.

On October 14 a new departure was taken by the admission of nearly sixty women to degrees; these included the conferring of the degree of M.A. by decree on the Principals of the women's colleges and halls and of the Society of Oxford Home-Students.

A letter has been addressed by some members of the University to the professors of the arts and sciences and to members of the universities and learned societies in Germany and Austria, expressing a "desire to dispel the embitterment of animosities that under the impulse of loyal patriotism may have passed between us," and suggesting that a reconciliation may surely be looked for in the fields of arts and learning.

MR. J. R. C. GORDON has been appointed professor of materia medica and therapeutics at the Anderson College of Medicine, Glasgow.