

and one in Australia with a membership of 550. In this short note it is impossible to analyse all the naturalist sciences, but since zoology is by far the most populous, it may be taken as illustrating the general trend. Of the 34 great zoological societies in the world, 13 concern themselves with zoology in general (40,178 members), the others are specialist: 10 societies of entomology, with 10,165 members; 7 of ornithology, 10,672; 2 of mammalogy, 1775; one of ichthyology, 650; and one of ecology, 600.

THE distribution of the zoological societies gives a glimpse of the Nature-loving character of nations. The United States possesses 12 zoological societies (15,299), Great Britain 7 (19,163), Germany 5 (6110), Holland 2 (7640), France 2 (2400), one each in Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Austria, Australia, and Japan, with membership varying from 10,415 in Belgium to 538 in Japan. The Belgian Société royale de Zoologie d'Anvers is the largest of zoological societies, its 10,415 members indicating perhaps the standard of the simple acquirements which admission demands; next on the list in magnitude are two well-known British institutions—the Zoological Society of London (8200) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (4500). It is curious that zoological societies as things apart did not come into existence until the second quarter of the nineteenth century: Zoological Society of London, 1826; Royal Zoological Society of Ireland, 1832; Entomological Society of France, 1832; Entomological Society of London, 1833; Zoological Society of Amsterdam, 1838; and so on. Four societies of general natural science hail from the eighteenth century—the Society of Natural Sciences of Danzig, 1743; the Society of Natural Sciences of Zurich, 1746; the Linnean Society of London, 1785; and the Society of Natural History of Hanover, 1797. In all, it would appear that at least 295,617 individuals in the world have an interest, more than fleeting, in the natural sciences.

Leonhard Stejneger, Antiquarian and Naturalist

IT is fitting that the autumn number (No. 3; 1931) of *Copeia*, a journal of cold-blooded vertebrates published by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, should have appeared as a special tribute to Leonhard Stejneger and his work. For Stejneger is to American cold-blooded vertebrates what G. A. Boulenger is on this side of the Atlantic. Endowed with great personal charm and a willingness to share his profound knowledge, to which the writer of this note has more than once been indebted, Stejneger is a man in whom great diversity of interests and talents has been combined. As Thomas Barbour in a tribute to his friend says, "Being an antiquarian, a classicist, a rarely accomplished linguist, and a naturalist in the widest sense, he possessed a foundation on which with good health and great industry he has built a mighty structure of rarely excellent work". The anniversary number, with its many papers on reptiles, amphibians, and fishes, is a fitting monument to this native of Bergen and graduate of the University of Christiania, who since 1882 has been

associated with the Smithsonian Institution and since 1911 has been its head curator of biology.

Reindeer Ranching in Northern Canada

DOMESTIC reindeer were introduced into Alaska from Siberia at the end of the last century and have done so well there, according to Mr. M. A. Earle Kelly in an article in the *National Review* for February (p. 215), that the reindeer ranching industry in Alaska is expected to become more important than mining. Now, he says, the three-year trek of Canada's first herd, of 3000, is nearly at an end, as they will shortly arrive at the Mackenzie delta, there to furnish stock to be established across northern Canada in the interest of the Eskimo, hard-pressed by contact with civilisation, which has destroyed or driven away the animals on which he lived. It is hoped that he will become a reindeer rancher, and four families of the Lapps, so well known in this capacity, have already reached Kittigazuit in the Mackenzie estuary, in company with Mr. A. E. Porsild, who, with his brother, has been arranging for the purchase and transport of the herd for the Canadian Government. Reindeer have done so exceedingly well in Alaska, which is now even supplying their meat for American markets, that there should be no obstacle to similar success in the contiguous Canadian tundra, which, it is estimated, could carry 12,000,000 of them, where ordinary domestic ungulates could not live.

The Cigarette Habit

AT a meeting of the Society for the Study of Intemperance and Drug Addiction on April 12, a paper on the cigarette habit was read by Dr. J. D. Rolleston, who dealt with its history, economics, pharmacology, and clinical aspects. Cigarette smoking appears to have originated in South America, where it was reported by travellers and missionaries in the eighteenth century, and thence to have been introduced to Spain, where it was described by Casanova in a visit to Madrid in 1767. The cigarette was afterwards introduced into France and Italy, but it was not until after the Crimean war (1856), when French and English officers acquired it from their Turkish allies, that the cigarette habit became diffused over Europe. Germany, where the cigar was more popular, was among the last European countries to adopt the cigarette; it did not become firmly established in England until the 'eighties. There has been a great increase of cigarette smoking since the War, especially among women, in all European countries and the United States. Dr. Rolleston pointed out that the cigarette differs from other preparations of tobacco in its nicotine content being lower than that of the cigar or pipe, whereas the amount of carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke is comparatively high. Furfurol, which is usually absent in the smoke of the pipe and cigar and present in only very small amounts in that of the Turkish cigarette, is found in comparatively large quantities in the smoke of the cheaper kinds of Virginia cigarettes and is liable to give rise to symptoms of intoxication. Medical opinion is still divided as to the part played by tobacco in general and the cigarette in particular in the causation of