

### Tobacco Consumption in Various Countries

*Tobacco Consumption in Various Countries*, No. 6 of the *Research Papers* issued by the Tobacco Research Council, London, shows the annual consumption of various forms of tobacco in thirty countries (Edited by G. F. Todd. Pp. 58. London: Tobacco Research Council, 1963). The tables start from 1920, where figures are available, and in most cases go up to 1962. They also include the population aged 15+, and the last two columns of each table show cigarette and total tobacco consumption per adult per year. A summary table compares 1962 consumption with that in 1935. In 1962 Britain came fifth in consumption of cigarettes per adult, after the United States, Canada, Switzerland and Ireland. No figures are given for Eastern Bloc countries. The tables are useful raw material for research. For example, mortality rates for many of the killing diseases of men aged between 55 and 64, such as heart disease, chronic bronchitis and lung cancer, are said to be positively correlated with cigarette consumption. Cigarette consumption of men in this age group also is probably well correlated to consumption in the country as a whole. It was, therefore, of interest to determine the relationship between average cigarette consumption per adult between 1946 and 1961, and death rates—all causes—of men ages 55-64 in 1961 in these countries (five countries excluded because of unsatisfactory mortality data). The correlation was found to be 0.38. This is the kind of weak relationship that was expected and a one-sided statistical test shows it is significant,  $0.05 > P$ . Trends in mortality rates in this age group did not, however, appear to be correlated with trends in tobacco consumption, but the point has not been examined in detail. The difficulties of interpreting this kind of mutual relationship emphasize the need for more data. The Tobacco Council has rendered a service in putting together and making available such material as it possesses.

### Atlantic Ridley Turtle

It was only in 1963 that the breeding ground of the Atlantic ridley turtle, *Lepidochelys kempi*, one of the five species of sea turtles, was discovered, although Dr. A. Carr, a herpetologist in Florida who has specialized in turtles, had been searching for it for eighteen years (*Oryx*, 7, No. 4; April 1964). The site is an almost uninhabited part of the Mexican Gulf coast in the State of Tamaulipas, and it was found when Dr. H. Hildebrand, of Corpus Christi University, discovered a short film of an *arribada*—the local name for the turtle nesting aggregations—taken by a Mexican some years ago but never seen by a zoologist. Each year, at an unpredictable time between April and June, the ridleys come ashore during daylight hours and nest in numbers estimated at 40,000 during a single six-hour period in some one-mile section of the shore. This represents virtually the entire breeding effort of the species, which is known through an extensive range from the Gulf of Mexico to the coasts of Europe; it is perhaps the most concentrated breeding aggregation of any vertebrate animal in the world. The ridleys are thus extremely vulnerable. The Fauna Preservation Society has written to the Mexican Government urging that this unique breeding colony should be protected. The commercial value of the ridley lies in its eggs and especially its calipee, the one irreplaceable ingredient of the gourmet's clear 'green turtle' soup. Because the calipee can easily be cut out of the turtle with a sharp knife, hunters do not need to carry off the whole heavy body, which means that more turtles can be killed at a time. The price for the dried calipee is high, and buyers no longer distinguish between the various kinds of turtles

### The Linnean Society of London:

### Elections

At the Anniversary Meeting of the Linnean Society of London, held on May 28, the following were elected

officers for the session 1964/65: *President*, Dr. Errol I. White; *Treasurer*, the Earl of Cranbrook; *Secretaries*, Prof. C. T. Ingold (botany) and Dr. H. G. Vevers (zoology); *Editorial Secretary*, Dr. John Smart; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. P. R. Bell, Dr. Anna M. Bidder, the Earl of Cranbrook, Prof. T. M. Harris; *New Members of Council*, Prof. L. J. Audus, Mr. L. L. Forman, Dr. P. H. Greenwood, Dr. K. A. Joysey, Dr. C. T. Prime; *Associate honoris causa*, P. D. Sell.

### Foreign Members

Foreign members elected were: Dr. Martin Cardenas (Bolivia); Dr. Hans Helbaek (Denmark); Prof. Giuseppe Montalenti (Italy); Prof. Rodolfo Emilio Giuseppe Piche-Sermolli (Italy); Prof. Johan Ruud (Norway).

### Awards

*Linnean Gold Medals* were presented to Dr. R. E. Holtum and Prof. C. F. A. Pantin. *The H. H. Bloomer Award* was presented to the Rev. Prof. C. E. Raven.

### Leverhulme Research Awards, 1964

AMONG the Leverhulme Research Awards of fellowships and research grants for 1964 are included the following: *Fellowships*, Mr. K. E. L. Simmons (schoolmaster), for work on the ethology of the brown booby, and Mr. J. Burns Singer (journalist), for work on speciation in *Ampelisca* (Crustacea-Amphipoda). *Research grants*, Dr. L. H. N. Cooper (Marine Biological Association, Plymouth), for work on the historical oceanography of the North Atlantic Ocean; Dr. S. B. McCann (University College of Wales, Aberystwyth), for an investigation of the raised beach and related coastal features of western and northern Scotland; Dr. W. E. K. Middleton (lately physicist, Division of Applied Physics, National Research Council of Canada), for the completion of a book on the history of meteorological instruments.

### R. A. Fisher Memorial Appeal

SIR JOHN GADDUM, chairman of the Sir Ronald Fisher Memorial Committee of Great Britain, writes:

'R. A. Fisher ranks among the greatest of the men of science of this century. In recasting the mathematical basis of theoretical statistics, he established a new way of thought which deepened our understanding of the nature of uncertainty, thus contributing profoundly to the philosophy of our age. It has been truly said of him that his work made vast areas of biology quantitative. Countless biologists and agricultural and medical research workers, as well as many others, are daily applying the methods which he devised and inspired. Furthermore, from its nature his work must continue to provide inspiration; others will add to what he built, but his achievements will not be superseded, either in the more academic lines of scientific inquiry, or in a host of applications of the most practical kind. The University of Adelaide, where Sir Ronald spent his last years, has already established a Sir Ronald Fisher Memorial Appeal with the object of fostering short visits to Australia by scientists distinguished in the fields in which Sir Ronald worked, and providing one or more memorial postgraduate scholarships in Statistics and Genetics at the University of Adelaide. It would seem fitting, however, that a memorial should also be established in this country to commemorate his life and work. The Sir Ronald Fisher Memorial Committee of Great Britain, which is composed of representatives appointed by societies especially associated with his activities, has decided that support should be sought for the establishment of a Fisher Memorial Lecture to be given at intervals in Great Britain, or occasionally abroad, by persons distinguished for contributions to natural knowledge or scientific methodology in one of the fields which had been of interest to him.