

INDIAN EUGENICS SOCIETY

WHAT is probably the first attempt to co-ordinate the efforts of a number of scientists to propagate the principles of Human genetics and Racial hygiene in India and to direct this for the betterment of the Indian population with a view to enhancing its surviving capacity in the struggle for existence, has been made in Bengal by a handful of scientific men who have started a society under the name of *Indian Eugenics Society*. How one wishes this attempt was made in a calmer atmosphere and when the human mind was free to think in terms of survival and betterment! Bitterness, racial animosity and strife are by no means congenial conditions for the growth of this sapling and one cannot but feel that this attempt is a very faint cry in a vast wilderness,—a cry that will be heard by a few.

Eugenics is definitely one aspect of scientific achievement that runs counter to war, and writing in the midst of war, one cannot help being overwhelmed by a sense of despair, of a feeling of fruitlessness, for, can not war, with one sweep, reduce the achievements of Eugenics into a confused rubble? Eugenics is probably the distilled essence of human scientific endeavour directed towards the betterment of mankind and it is impossible not to feel a sense of futility and helpless despair creeping up one's being.

The first bulletin published by the Society has reached us. It is a small, attractively

printed pamphlet with a foreword by the President of the Society, Dr. B. K. Chatterjee, who gives a brief history of the origin of the Society and puts forth a plea for the co-operation of scientists and workers all over India for the cause.

The main article itself "The aims of objects of Eugenic researches in Bengal" is by the Secretary of the Society, Mr. S. S. Sarkar who has presented an admirable review of the Eugenic studies in that province. He has laid special emphasis on the marriage problem in the country and the need for sex education of the young. This latter problem is one which has been occupying of our educationists for a long time and one which they are consistently loth to face. World opinion is now almost unanimous on the need for sex education for the young but what form it must take is evidently dependent on the peculiar needs of the country and therefore must necessarily vary from one country to another. Before any attempt at Eugenic studies are made, this problem of sex education must be tackled and solved. In fact the Indian Eugenics Society itself could give the lead in this respect and could bend its energies towards a clarification of this vital issue. It is hoped that the second bulletin will endeavour to deal with this problem.

B. R. S.

AMERICAN TECHNICAL MISSION

WE wish to extend to the American Technical Mission, a hearty and cordial welcome to this country. The principal object of the Mission is to investigate the extent and scope of help which the Government of U.S.A. should render for extending and speeding up India's War effort.

The Mission is expected to remain in Delhi for more than a week and may visit two or three of the most important centres of production in India with a view to establish useful contacts with industrialists and officials in the country.

Dr. Henry Grady, Head of the Mission, is reported to have said that the foremost task

of the Mission will be directed towards a consideration of those "missing links", whose prompt supply would bring about a more complete integration of India's war production machine. It is also intended to speed up and intensify the production of equipment, so that a more adequate proportion of India's great resources of manpower may be drawn into the armed forces.

"There are many American Technicians", he said, "who would be willing to come to India and not only help to train Indians but provide that industrial direction and drive which are peculiarly American."