

being the lowest among the ten countries for which figures have been given in Table IV, the only exception being France. Again, figures for the trend of birth-rates compiled by Whelpton and Kiser⁶ for the various countries of the world show that Central and South America have a higher birth-rate than India and Japan.

Thus, it should be clear that the existing data in India and elsewhere do not reveal any association between consumption of rice diets and increased human fertility.

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1. Blunt, Sir Edward, *Social Service in India*, 1938, His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

2. Director-General of Health Services, *Statistical Appendices to Annual Report for the years 1948 and 1949*, 1953, Manager of Publications, Delhi.
3. Gyan Chand, *India's Teeming Millions*, 1939, George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London.
4. Mukherjee, Radhakamal, *Food Planning for Four Hundred Millions*, 1938, McMillan & Co., London.
5. Viswanath, B., *Symposium, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore*, 1952.
6. Whelpton, P. K. and Kiser, C. V., *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 1945, **237**, 112.

Dr. HEM SINGH PRUTHI

ON the 30th November 1953, Dr. Hem Singh Pruthi, Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India, and Director, Locust Control, proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement. The event marks not only a change in his personal career but also a stage in the development of entomological research and plant protection in this country.

Dr. Pruthi's early researches dealt with the morphology of some Rhynchota and Coleoptera and while at Cambridge he also studied the influence of chemical and physical conditions of water on aquatic animals, a line of research which he continued in the Zoological Survey of India at Calcutta. At the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, the study of crop and other pests and the methods of their control naturally engaged his major attention. Part of his researches also concerned the insect vectors of virus diseases of plants, a subject, which had received hardly any attention in India before. He worked and guided others so as to produce valuable contributions to the biology, ecology, systematics and control of pests of cotton, sugarcane, fruit trees, etc. Two of his notable monographs have been on the desert locust and pests of stored grains. While his distinguished predecessor, Mr. T. Bainbridge Fletcher, was a great Systematist, Dr. Pruthi may be regarded as a pioneer in many fields of research designed to provide basic information for solving the problems of pest control in different parts of India. In 1943, the University of Cambridge conferred on him its Sc.D. Degree for his researches carried out in India.

Dr Pruthi was largely responsible for the establishment of the Locust Warning Organization established by the Government of India in 1939 and he was put in charge of it and remained so up till the time of his retirement.

During the last 25 years, Dr. Pruthi has been exercising an influence over entomological research and plant protection over a country of the size of the undivided India, to an extent to which it has not been given to many entomologists to do. Under his leadership entomological research in India began to be coordinated and the sciences of entomology, plant pathology and even of chemistry drew closer to solve practical problems. Entomologists all over India looked to him for inspiration and guidance and the subject of plant protection acquired new importance. His has indeed been a crowded life of persistent endeavours, effective planning and solid achievements. Few entomologists have had closer associations with Dr. Pruthi in his scientific work and endeavours than the present writer. The impression about Dr. Pruthi that survives with him, as it must be with many others, is of a forceful personality in which the scientist, the administrator, the organizer and the man of sympathy and understanding are happily blended. It is fortunate, therefore, that Dr. Pruthi's retirement from Government service does not mean his retirement from active scientific life and work and all of us must wish him many more years of good health in the cause of scientific research and crop protection.

K. B. LAL.