

THE PROGRESS OF HEREDITY

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IN the year 1947 it was clear that the study of Genetics was beginning to exert the greatest influence, which Bateson had foretold, on man's outlook on the world. After half a century research and teaching were at last beginning to expand in Britain. Professor Fisher and I therefore thought it necessary to secure reliable publication in the field of Genetics in our country by founding a new journal, *Heredity*. Our object was to publish in the first place work done by our own colleagues and friends. But we wished at the same time to introduce Genetics, as we put it, "to the whole world of Biology". We therefore asked for the help of a group of geneticists in other countries who agreed to collaborate with us.

On the death of Sir Ronald Fisher in 1962 the journal passed into my hands. After 1957 it had, however, been managed by a succession of managing editors: Professor K. Mather from 1957 to 1964, Dr K. R. Lewis from 1965 to 1967, and Professor J. L. Jinks from 1967 to the present time.

For the first ten years the whole editing of papers and of book reviews (which began to appear in the second volume) had been under my care. The reviews grew in number and importance during this time and in 1957 had to be put in charge of a separate editor, Professor Jinks until 1964 and Professor J. M. Thoday from 1964 to the present time.

The success of the journal, distributed as it is to some eighty countries, has allowed it to support the organisation of conferences on special aspects of genetical research whose proceedings it has published as supplements. These in turn have served to strengthen the journal. They have also strengthened its connection with the Genetical Society in Britain which was founded (the first society of its kind) by Bateson in 1919. The first volume of *Heredity* began with the abstracts prepared for a conference which the Genetical Society had sponsored in London during November 1945. And the volume ended with the first of a complete series of the abstracts of papers presented to the Society's meetings.

The journal has thus been a means of both recording and promoting the activities of the Genetical Society. Now, thanks to the devoted work of its editors and its publishers, Messrs Oliver & Boyd, it has become self-supporting. I have therefore arranged to transfer the ownership of the journal to the Society.

The Society has accordingly drawn up rules which will, I believe, enable it to provide a flexible and permanent management of the journal. Its purpose will thus continue to be to advance Genetics and help those who pursue the study and use of Genetics in all parts of the world.