

100,000 persons became only 100,002 after the lapse of a year.

It is when we realise how extraordinarily slow Man's average rate of numerical increase has been in the past, that we grasp the true significance of his rate of increase during last century and during the century on which we have entered. For the latter rate would have given the world its existing population in about 2000 years. With such a fact in view, and remembering that we start now with, say, 1950 millions, we cannot escape seeing that the world's future is ominous. Thus suppose that the rate of increase was, as mentioned, about 0.864 per cent. it would double its population every 80.54 years, and thus we should have, were such increase possible, the following astonishing figures for the earth's population, at the date-years indicated, viz. :—

Date-years	1928	2008	2089	2169	2250	2330
Millions -	1950	3900	7800	15,600*	31,200*	62,400*

It will be shown later that the figures marked with asterisks are not possible populations for this earth; and thus we are driven to ask, "What then will bring about the limitation of human reproduction?"

The existing situation may be stated in another way. The human race has reached a rate of increase which is not only enormously great as compared with its average rate in the past; it is also one which cannot possibly extend far into the future, indeed it cannot continue for two centuries!

The traces which still remain of past civilisations suggest that circumstances formerly existed which profoundly reacted upon the rate of human increase. Of these, however, we have no reliable record. Either life on earth has been subject to great vicissitudes, of which historically we know practically nothing—possibly some geological evidences remain—or else Man's powers of