

Section XII.—Religious Beliefs.

126. **General.**—A question regarding the religious belief of the individual forms no part of the census questionnaire in many countries. At the passing of the Union Census Act, parliament singled out this item as the only one to which an individual may lawfully refrain from giving an answer. Section XV (1) of the Act provides that no person shall be compelled to declare his religious persuasion or denomination if he states that he objects, and the word "object" or its equivalent is entered on the schedule. Notwithstanding this provision in the Act, it is noteworthy that only 49 persons or 3 in every 100,000 took advantage of it. In 1911 the number of objectors was 3,613 and in 1921 only 24.

It has been questioned whether statistics of religious belief serve any useful public purpose. They certainly are of value to various ecclesiastical organisations, just as statistics of fertility are of particular interest to biometricians, and statistics of age to actuaries, and so forth; further by correlating religion with other items of the census valuable conclusions emerge and a useful check is obtained during the tabulation of the census on the accuracy of the various replies to the questions on the forms.

The tabulation of statistics of religions has been extended at this census and the detailed tables appear in volume VIII of the report. The arrangement of the first four tables of this volume is similar to that of previous censuses; but tables Nos. V to VII are new and show respectively religions in relation to age; in relation to the official language spoken; and according to the parentage of the individual. Moreover, an attempt has been made to sub-divide the three principal Dutch churches in the Union. The process of classifying the various terms used was admittedly a difficult one, but the figures may be taken as being substantially correct, and any errors of classification which may have crept in will be negligible and will not affect the general proportions to any appreciable extent. This remark also applies to other denominations; but when consideration is given to the extraordinary terms used by some persons to designate their religious persuasion, and to those who give only the local name of the church they attend, the amount of time and labour expended by, and the difficulties of, the tabulating staff in endeavouring to assign the correct classification may be imagined.

127. **Form of Enquiry.**—The statistics have been tabulated from the question which appeared on the form as follows:—

State the religious denomination or sect.

The census of 1904 was the first on which a statement of religious belief was generally asked. Prior to this date it appeared on the Orange Free State census forms of 1880 and 1890, and in the Cape of Good Hope from 1875 onwards.

128. **Tabulation.**—The detailed statistics have been tabulated under 58 separate headings, two of which include those who definitely stated that they had no religion and those who objected to state their religious persuasion. At the census of 1921 the headings were limited to 39. The headings cover most of the christian denominations and the definite non-christian religions such as Judaism, Hinduism, Mohammedanism, and also several of the cults such as Deism, Spiritualism, Theosophy, Universalism, etc. Under the term Christian will be found those who describe themselves merely as "Christian" or "Protestant" and the numerous obscure and minor sects or denominations have been classified under the term "Various other Christian Sects."

In this summary it is impossible to deal with all the 58 classes, and those numerically the strongest have, therefore, been selected for analysis.

Of the twelve numerically strongest denominations in the Union the Apostolic Faith Mission showed the biggest percentage increase during the quinquennium 1921-1926 with 100.77 per cent., Lutherans coming second with 22.37 per cent., and Hebrews third with 15.64 per cent. Only one of these twelve showed a decrease; Independent or Congregationalists with 5.97 per cent.

Apart from the minor denominations or sects which have few adherents in the Union, the progress of the Apostolic Faith Mission has been remarkable and the number of adherents has increased from 7,742 in 1921 to 15,544 in five years. Reference to Table VI in Volume VIII shows that the languages spoken by these 15,544 persons were returned as follows: Bilingual, 9,981; Afrikaans, 5,056; English, 499; Neither and Unspecified, 8. A further analysis taken from Table VII shows that the parentage of those professing to be adherents of the Apostolic Faith Mission was as follows: Dutch South African, 12,757; British South African, 1,225; German, 523; English, 376; and the balance of various other parentages. These facts would appear to indicate that this sect has largely absorbed its adherents from former members of the Dutch churches. The provincial distribution of this sect was approximately as follows: Cape, 3,000; Natal, 900; Transvaal, 9,700; Orange Free State, 1,900; and the distribution between the towns and country districts 9,273 urban, and 6,271 rural.

The large increase of the Lutherans is remarkable in view of the fact that professors of this religion diminished steadily in numbers from 1904 to 1921. The increase in Hebrews is largely due to immigration.

129. **Classified List of Religions.**—The following is the list of the headings under which the statements of religion have been classified. It is, of course, possible to extend the list but the numbers returned on some headings are too few to justify separate tabulation and would serve no useful purpose.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.

Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk (Nederduits Hervormde of Gereformeerde Verenigde Kerk).
Gereformeerde Kerk van Suid-Afrika (Enkel Gereformeerde Kerk, Dopperkerk).
Hervormde Kerk.
Anglican Communion (including Church of England, Church of Province of South Africa, Church of Ireland, Episcopal Church of Scotland, Episcopalian).
Presbyterian.
Independent or Congregationalist (including London Missionary Society).
Methodist (including Primitive Methodist, Wesleyan, United Methodist Church, Bible Christian, Methodist New Connexion, United Methodist Free Church, African Methodist Episcopal, other Methodist, Methodist (so returned)).
Lutheran (including Moravians or United Brethren, Berlin Mission, Rhenish Mission, German Evangelical, etc.).
Roman Catholic (including Greek Catholic).
Greek Church (including Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox).
Baptist.
Christian Brethren.
Christian Scientist.
French Protestant.
Mormon (Latter Day Saints).
Plymouth Brethren.
Salvation Army.
Seventh Day Adventist.
Society of Friends.
Swedenborgian.
Unitarian.
Apostolic Faith, Mission, Church.
Calvinist.
Christadelphian.
Church of Christ.
Faith Mission (Healers).
Full Gospel Church, Gospel Mission.
International Bible Students.
Pentecostal.
Sabbatarians.
South African General Mission.
Swiss Church, Mission or Reformed.
Testimony of Jesus.
Christian (so returned).
Protestant (so returned).
Unsectarian (including "No Church" and "No Denomination.")
Various Christian Sects (not elsewhere defined).
Hebrew.
Ethical.
Communist, Socialist, etc.
New Thought.

Buddhist.
Confucian.
Hindu.
Mohammedan.
Parsi or Pasee.
Agnostic.
Atheist.
Deist.
Free Thinker.

Spiritualist.
Theist.
Theosophist.
Universalist.
Other.
No Religion (so returned).
Object to State.
Heathen (so returned).
Unknown or Unspecified.

130. **Indefinite Terms.**—As an indication of the variety of terms which the tabulation staff has to deal with, the following list has been compiled. The first were classified under the general heading "Various Christian Sects" and the second under "Other Religions."

(i) Various Christian Sects.

Anabaptist.
Algesian.
African Free Church.
Assemblies of God.
Believer in Christ (God).
Bahia.
Body of Christ.
Bible Christian.
Christian Church.
Christian Socialist.
Church of God (Gemeente Gods).
Cape Mission.
Czecho-Slav.
Church of Christ.
Christian Endeavour.
Christian Union.
Christian Missionary.
Christlike Vereeniging Kerk.
Christian Mystic.
Church of Nazarene.
Christian Meetings.
Dodridge.
Dissenter.
Durban Peoples Mission.
Dutch Bible.
Disciples of Christ.
Evangelical Mission.
Exclusive Brethren.
Evangelical Reform.
Gods Children.
Gospel Mission.
Gereformeerde Kruiskerk.
Grace Mission.
House of Israel.
Holiness Union.
House of God.

Initiating Brother Society.
Independent Free Church.
International Holiness.
Jesus Only.
Liberal Catholic.
Lothian.
Mennonite.
Missionary.
Metropolitan.
Non-Conformist.
Nazarene.
Non-Sectarian.
Nederige Weg van Christus.
Orthodox.
Open Brethren.
Practical Christianity.
People of God.
Palagian.
Personal Evangelist.
Reformed Church of France.
Reformed Church of Baden.
Remonstrant.
Russelite.
Sons of England.
Scyprians.
Seceder.
Testimony of Jesus.
Twenty-four River Society.
True Saints.
Trinity.
Union Church.
Undenominational.
Unorthodox.
Waal.
Zwinglian.

(ii) Other Religions.

Afgesonderde Geloof.
Altruist.
Anti-Jewish.
Bush Baptist.
Cosmopolitan.
Dersey.
Egoist.
Erratic.
Everyone.
Free Religion.
Fatalist.
Fire Worshipper.
Free Mason.
Greenfields.
Humanitarian.
Hepzibala.
Materialist.

Modernist.
Monotheist.
Monist.
Metaphysical.
Multitudinarian.
Mystery.
Mennoiet.
Omnivorous.
Neutral.
Nature.
Secularist.
Positive.
Pantheist.
Rationalist.
Randfontein Assembly.
Science of Thought.
Truth.

131. **Adherents of Principal Religions.**—The following table shows the distribution of the adherents to the numerically strongest religions and denominations at the past three censuses, and the graph the percentage distribution at the census of 1926. The letters at the base of the graph indicate the following:—

- A. Dutch Churches;
B. Anglican;
C. Methodist;
D. Presbyterian;
E. Hebrew;
F. Roman Catholic;
G. Lutheran;
H. Baptist;
J. Apostolic Faith Mission;
K. Congregational.

The column indicating the Dutch churches has been shaded to show the three separate churches thus: (a) Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk; (b) Gereformeerde Kerk van Suid-Afrika; and (c) Hervormde Kerk.

In 1926 almost 55 per cent. were adherents of the Dutch churches, over 49 per cent. stating that they belonged to the Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk. This denomination was distributed largely in rural areas.

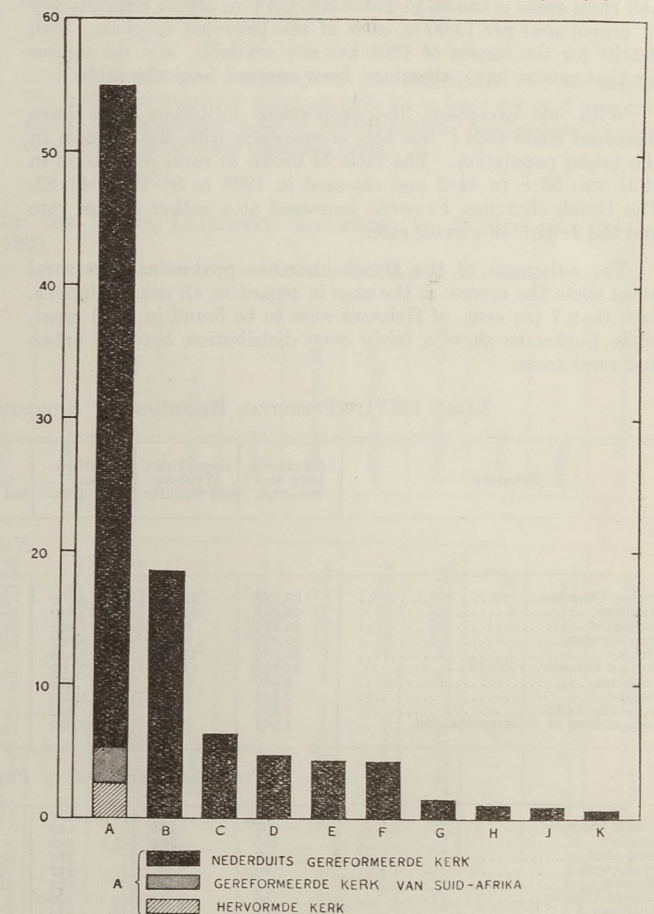
The next strongest denomination was the Anglican with 18 per cent. of the total population. In numbers they were very slightly more than one-third of the numbers of the Dutch churches. The third largest denomination was the Methodist church with 6 per cent., and bore the same ratio to the Anglicans as the latter did to the Dutch churches.

TABLE CXIII.—PRINCIPAL RELIGIONS—UNION, 1911 TO 1926.

| Religion. | 1926. | | 1921. | | 1911. | |
|---|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | No. | %. | No. | %. | No. | %. |
| Dutch Churches..... | 921,961 | 54.99 | 838,982 | 55.22 | 693,898 | 54.37 |
| Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk..... | 831,713 | 49.90 | | | | |
| Gereformeerde Kerk van Suid-Afrika..... | 45,722 | 2.73 | | | | |
| Hervormde Kerk..... | 44,525 | 2.66 | | | | |
| Anglican Churches..... | 311,281 | 18.56 | 294,026 | 19.35 | 255,640 | 20.03 |
| Methodist Churches..... | 105,217 | 6.27 | 102,771 | 6.76 | 82,104 | 6.43 |
| Presbyterian Churches..... | 79,516 | 4.74 | 74,999 | 4.94 | 58,633 | 4.59 |
| Hebrew..... | 71,816 | 4.28 | 62,103 | 4.09 | 46,919 | 3.68 |
| Roman Catholic..... | 71,227 | 4.25 | 61,246 | 4.03 | 53,793 | 4.22 |
| Lutheran..... | 23,371 | 1.39 | 19,098 | 1.26 | 23,707 | 1.86 |
| Baptist..... | 17,316 | 1.03 | 15,414 | 1.02 | 15,088 | 1.18 |
| Apostolic Faith..... | 15,544 | 0.93 | 7,742 | 0.51 | | |
| Congregational..... | 9,965 | 0.59 | 10,598 | 0.70 | 13,402 | 1.05 |

* Not separately tabulated.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRINCIPAL DENOMINATIONS PER CENT. OF THE TOTAL EUROPEAN POPULATION—UNION 1926.



Graph LI.

