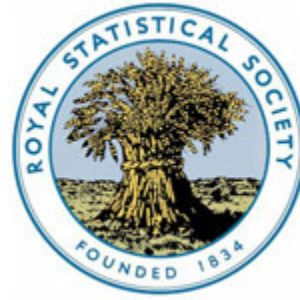


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THE REGISTER OF BELGIAN REFUGEES.

By T. T. S. DE JASTRZEBSKI.

[Read before the Royal Statistical Society, January 18, 1916, the President,  
The Right Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I., in the Chair.]

THE subject of my paper is one which, at the present stage at all events, does not lend itself to advanced statistical treatment. From the writer's point of view this is no disadvantage, for he is as yet a tyro who has to win his spurs in the statistical field. All that he can attempt at present is to treat the matter on general lines, pushing exploration, however, a little further in those directions in which it seems safe so to do.

At the outset it is necessary to clear the ground by describing in some detail the circumstances and manner in which the register has been compiled, so that an idea may be obtained, not only of how the material has been collected but of its reliability.

It was in the latter half of October, 1914, that the President of the Local Government Board requested the Registrar-General to undertake the compilation and maintenance of a Register of Belgian Refugees, with the primary objects of ascertaining their numbers and of enabling the refugees to trace lost relatives and friends. What was involved in the undertaking was a matter of conjecture, and it may be safely said that no one even anticipated its magnitude or the variety and extent of the demands which would be made upon it. One thing, however, was certain—it had to be commenced at once and carried through as rapidly as possible or even more rapidly than that. Material for compilation existed in the shape of records kept by the War Refugees' Committee at Aldwych, by kindred bodies more directly concerned with some special section of the refugees, by the police at Folkestone. On October 23, 1914,

a start was made with a hastily recruited temporary staff, officered by two or three members of the permanent staff of the General Register Office. The first task was to make an individual card index, arranged alphabetically, each card to contain the full name and surname, age, sex, occupation, residence in Belgium and address in the United Kingdom. In the light of subsequent experience, it was a mistake to accept the existing records as a basis for compilation. Made by inexperienced persons, in circumstances of unprecedented confusion and hurry, when the information had to be extracted from dazed and bewildered persons of little education, through the medium in many cases of interpreters whose knowledge of one of the two languages employed was extremely limited; these records abounded in errors and omissions, and their reproduction in the card index involved an altogether disproportionate amount of subsequent labour and trouble in the endeavour to correct them.

As it was evident that these records did not include many refugees who were self-supporting and that many who were receiving private hospitality had not passed through the hands of the War Refugees' Committee, an appeal was made to the local refugee committees and to refugees themselves to register voluntarily on a form drawn up at the General Register Office. Many thousands of these forms were sent out and a large proportion of them returned at varying intervals. As was only to be expected they varied greatly in quality, some being excellently done and others painfully defective. However, they represented a great advance on the original records and as they were received they were compared with the card index, existing cards being corrected where necessary and cards being written in all cases where no record had been made. But even then it was quite apparent that the index was by no means complete. Large numbers of self-supporting refugees were too indifferent to register themselves and there were others who desired for various reasons to avoid registration. At the instance therefore of the Belgian Government, supported by the Registrar-General, the police and the military authorities, the Order in Council making registration compulsory was brought into force in December, 1914. Since that time neglect to register by a Belgian refugee, *i.e.*, by a Belgian arriving in England after the beginning of the war or by an alien resident in Belgium so arriving, has been a punishable offence, and the index has steadily progressed in accuracy and completeness.

One of the obvious defects of the pre-compulsory period was that, although a very considerable proportion of the refugees was

registered, there was no proper system by which their movements could be chronicled, a matter vital to the maintenance of the register. Recourse was had to the local committees, to the War Refugees' Committee, to the great camps at the Alexandra Palace and Earl's Court, who were asked to furnish information as to changes of address of refugees. The results were mostly unsatisfactory. Much of the information obtained was inadequate, some inaccurate. When the Order in Council was obtained, one of the first considerations was to bring into being some machinery by which changes of address could be notified to the Central Register. Under the terms of the Order a certificate of registration had to be issued to each refugee over 16 years of age and this certificate has been utilised for recording the change of address. On it instructions are printed in English, French and Flemish, directing the refugee to report any intended change of address at the nearest police station. The date on which and the address to which the refugee concerned is about to remove are noted in a space provided at the foot of the certificate. The instructions further direct the refugee on his arrival at the new address to report himself to the local police to whom the certificate is surrendered and a new one is issued in its place. The surrendered certificate is forwarded to the Central Register. The obligations of the refugee are therefore to report an intended change of address and to report an arrival at a new address to the police. The duties of the police in this connection are (1) on a refugee attending to notify an impending change of address to fill in the particulars of the intended change on the certificate, to make out a form of notification containing full particulars as to the refugee and the intended change and to forward it to the Chief Constable of the district into which the refugee is removing, and (2) on a refugee arriving in the district to impound the existing certificate, enter the particulars as to the refugee in the police register and forward the impounded certificate to the Central Register. It will be seen that each change is automatically reported to the Central Register—that is, if the precise instructions are carried out. Failure to notify change of address is a penal offence. For the Metropolitan Police area, in which the Registrar-General is the sole registration authority, the system is specially modified to meet this fact. In all other parts of England and Wales the Chief Constable is the registration authority for his own district and has to keep a local register of the refugees. It may be added that while the obligation to register and to notify any intended change of address is thrown in the first instance on the refugee, the host in the United Kingdom of any such refugee is also required

to see that this obligation is carried out and to supply the required particulars should the refugee fail to do so.

I do not propose to enter in any way into the details of the difficulties, the disappointments and the trials which have been encountered in the compilation and maintenance of the register. Such details would encumber this paper to the exclusion of more important matter and would necessitate the employment of rhetoric too torrid for any scientific assembly. It will be more to the purpose to pass these over in an eloquent silence and to proceed at once to the consideration of what has been done. As already stated, the primary objects of the register were two, first to ascertain numbers and particulars as to the refugees as a whole, secondly to enable the refugees or those interested in them personally to trace missing relatives and friends.

As to the first point the number of individual cards in the principal index up to November 30, 1915, was 225,000 and there were in addition over 8,000 cards on which the information was too scant to admit of their being placed in that index for searching purposes. Among these cards are a number of duplicates, as registration has often been effected more than once by individual refugees, and in a fair number of cases there is a sufficient discrepancy in the names recorded to render identification of the second card made with that already in the index a matter of great uncertainty. On the other hand there is still a number of refugees unregistered and it is reasonably probable that these two errors approximately counterbalance each other. The numbers therefore of the refugees coming to this country up to the end of November last were nearly a quarter of a million. Of these 95 per cent. are Belgians and 5 per cent. of some other alien nationality, mostly Russian Jews. Some 15,000 of Belgian nationality are known to have left the country, independently of those thousands who have joined the Belgian army. Among the non-Belgian refugees the proportion leaving the country is considerably higher, being probably about 20 per cent. This leaves about 200,000 refugees in round figures as in the country at the end of November, 1915. The distribution by age and sex is roughly :—

Infants under 5 years, both sexes	....	....	....	....	18,500
5 to 15, males	....	....	....	....	17,000
"    females	....	....	....	....	16,500
15 to 25, males	....	....	....	....	19,000
"    females	....	....	....	....	20,000
25 to 65, males	....	....	....	....	52,500
"    females	....	....	....	....	51,000
Over 65, males	....	....	....	....	2,000
"    females	....	....	....	....	3,500

The number of males between 15 and 25 here given is undoubtedly in excess of the facts as numbers have joined the army without the fact being communicated to the Central Register.

The refugee population is not a stable one. There is a continuous flow into and out of the United Kingdom and a continuous movement from place to place within the United Kingdom. During the year 1915 the inward and outward flow as shown by the register were as follows :—

Month.	Inward.	Outward.
	Per diem.	Per diem.
January–March....	1,000	No data
April–June ....	300	60
July ....	200	55
August ....	150	62
September ....	110	63
October ....	50	50
November ....	100	28

The internal migration was subject to considerable fluctuations in the earlier period covered by the register; for some months, however, it has been a little over one per cent. of the total per week.

As to the second point, the number of searches made in the index since it was declared open in December, 1914, has been about 100,000. These have been made for private individuals, for foreign committees, for the police, for the British and Belgian military authorities, &c. Over 60 per cent. of the searches were made for private persons seeking information as to the whereabouts of missing relatives and friends. At the outset about 15 per cent. of the searches were successful; since last March the proportion of successful has been maintained steadily at double that figure. In all some 15,000 persons have been traced for private applicants. The searches for foreign committees, less numerous in the earlier period, are now considerably in excess of those for private applicants. They constitute about one-third of the first year's total. They come principally from France and the proportion of persons found is considerably lower. This is quite natural as recourse is made to us as a *pis aller*, a last forlorn hope.

On the suggestion of Dr. Stevenson it was decided from the outset to make an additional card index of all refugees who had followed a profession, calling or trade in their own country. This index, on cards of a different colour from the principal index, has been maintained *pari passu* with the latter. It numbers about 87,000

cards, and these are coded according to occupations on the model used in the English Census of 1911. The arrangement of the index is primarily by occupation, secondly by area of residence in the United Kingdom, and thirdly alphabetical. It became apparent, however, that more detailed particulars as to occupation than those recorded on the cards and in the earlier registration forms were necessary for the purposes of employment, and since January last the registration form has contained questions dealing with the occupation followed by the refugee in detail. These forms are arranged in the same way as the index, with a further division into those known to have obtained employment in this country and those not known to be employed. Both the occupational index and the employment forms are corrected in the same way as the principal index.

The Order in Council has no provision for compulsory notification on obtaining employment or of change of occupation or employer, and it is obvious that the particulars obtained as to employment or non-employment in this country are subject to constant change. It was hoped that, in so far at least as the more important occupational groups were concerned, it would be possible to keep the forms fairly accurate through the medium of the Labour Exchange. Experience proved this hope to be fallacious. The proportion obtaining work without the intervention of the Labour Exchange was large, and the particulars furnished of those who did so obtain employment were frequently too meagre to enable individuals concerned to be identified. The only satisfactory method was to send personal inquiries from time to time. Of these inquiries, 44,000 have been sent out. Of 10,000 persons who received these inquiries in August and September last who were not recorded as in employment, over 4,000 reported that they had obtained work, and 2,000 that they were at the moment unemployed. Of the latter 400 gave sickness, age or some other physical disability as the reason, leaving 1,600 employables unemployed. The others did not reply to the inquiry and I think it may fairly be assumed that they were either employed or anxious not to find work. No exact figures can be given as to the proportion of the refugees who have obtained work in this country, but from the various indices available that proportion cannot be less than 70 per cent. and is probably greater. For example, in the trades covered by the inquiry of August and September, it is known that some 13,000 persons have obtained work, as against 2,000 who have not and 4,000 who have not supplied any information. Even assuming that all the latter are unemployed, the percentage known to have obtained employment

is 70. A fairer assumption would be that the proportions among the 4,000 unknowns were on a level with the knowns, viz., 13 employed as against 2 unemployed, *i.e.*, that in this important group of trades, covering about one-third of the total, about 85 per cent. have found work here. It is fair to add that this group covers some of the occupations in which one would expect to find a high percentage of workers who would find it easy to obtain employment, including as it does workers in metals and wood, miners and agriculturists. Discounting all this, however, the proportion 70 per cent. seems to me to be below rather than above the facts.

Sufficient data are not to hand to allow of any figures being given as to the numbers who have work outside the occupation which they followed in their own country, a point of considerable interest. The matter has not been overlooked and as far as possible the facts are being collected and may be sufficiently complete at some future date to enable us to draw at least some reasonable deductions.

As an appendix to this paper will be found tables showing the numbers and proportions of persons following certain specified occupations in Belgium according to the census of 1900 and the numbers and proportions of refugees following the same occupations who have arrived in the United Kingdom.

At an early stage it became evident that a complete duplicate index, one that could be sorted in a variety of ways, would sooner or later become necessary. This task was undertaken as soon as the staff was able to undertake it, and duplicate cards are now written in all cases. This duplicate index has been coded according to the areas of residence in this country. As the police district is the registration unit for refugees, this was naturally adopted as the unit for coding, and each card in the duplicate index bears the area code number of the place at which the person resides. On any change of address to a different police area the code number is amended. It is intended at an early date to code it further to the area of residence in Belgium, so that when the question of repatriation arises it will be possible in a few hours to assemble together all cards relating to refugees from any given district, town or village. The code to be used is one for which the writer is directly responsible and a brief description of it may not be without interest. It is quite a simple one—Belgium is divided into nine provinces and in the code the left hand figure indicates the province, the second figure the area in that province. Where there is a third figure the fact that it relates to a suburb of one of



the great cities is indicated. By giving the code for the two provinces of Antwerp and Brabant, I shall probably make it perfectly clear.

Province of Antwerp.		Code index No. 1. Code number.	Province of Brabant.		Code index No. 2. Code number.
Area.			Area.		
Antwerp city	....	10	Brussels city	....	20
Berchem	....	111	Anderlecht	....	210
Borgerhout	....	112	Etterbeek	....	211
Deurne	....	113	Hal	....	212
Hoboken	....	114	Ixelles	....	213
Merxem	....	115	Laeken	....	214
Niel	....	116	Molenbeek St. Jean	....	215
Wilryck	....	117	St. Gilles	....	216
Lierre	....	12	St. Joost ten Norde	....	217
Malines	....	13	Schaerbeek	....	218
Willebroeck	....	14	Uccle	....	219
Gheel	....	15	Diest	....	22
Turnhout	....	16	Louvain	....	23
Rest of Province	....	17	Tirlemont	....	24
			Nivelles	....	25
			Wavre	....	26
			Rest of Province	....	27

In addition to the two complete indexes, the occupational index and the employment forms, all the papers relating to each refugee, the registration form, superseded certificates, notices of change of address, &c., are filed in alphabetical sequence of name so as to constitute a sort of personal dossier.

For the purpose of this paper I need not give any detailed account of the various uses that have been made of the indexes or of the subsidiary partial indexes and detailed returns that have been prepared from time to time. They fulfilled the immediate purposes for which they were required, they occupied the time of the staff to a very large extent, but their interest was fugitive rather than permanent. I purpose instead to make some remarks and to give some figures on an aspect of the question hitherto quite untouched, viz.: to what extent is the refugee population of the United Kingdom typical of the population of Belgium as a whole.

Before doing this, however, there are a few general remarks that may be more conveniently made at this stage than later. First the register is, nominally at all events, one of the civil population taking refuge here. There is an index relating to wounded and disabled Belgian soldiers who have come to this country, compiled and maintained by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee under the authority of the Registrar-General. It is part of the Central Register, but is separately compiled and kept until such time as it

is deemed advisable for the Registrar-General to take it over. Into the reasons for which this course was adopted I need not go, it will suffice if I state that the event has justified the decision. For Scotland a complete register is maintained by the City of Glasgow Refugees' Committee as a collecting centre for the Central Register. This work has been admirably performed by Mr. Alexander Walker the city treasurer, and duplicates of all cards in that register are regularly forwarded to the Registrar-General. For Ireland the police act on similar lines to the police in England and Wales.

The existing process of registration may be summarised briefly as follows. On arrival in the United Kingdom the refugee is required to fill up the registration form; a certificate of registration is then issued to the refugee, and the necessary cards for the central indexes are compiled. The card for the principal index is inserted in its proper place, while the cards for the duplicate and occupational indexes are first coded and then inserted in place; if the refugee is a person having an occupation in his own country the form is coded and inserted in its proper place among the occupational forms. On receipt of any notification of change of address the correction is carried out through the various indexes, &c., in the same order, those in the principal index being dealt with on the day of receipt. As will be understood the noting of the change of address in the other places when it is required may involve a change of area coding and a transfer of the form from one division to another. Before leaving the country the refugee has to produce the certificate of registration as one of the preliminaries to obtaining a permit, and the certificate is impounded by the police at the port of embarkation and forwarded to the Central Register.

I propose now to consider the question in the light afforded by the Central Register, "How far is the refugee population of the United Kingdom representative of the population of Belgium as a whole?" or in other words, "Can we regard it as a typical sample of the nation?" It must be remembered that the population of Belgium is a somewhat peculiarly constituted one from the racial and linguistic points of view. Of its nine constituent provinces, four—Antwerp, East and West Flanders and Limbourg—are predominantly Flemish, the Flemish element being nowhere less than twenty times as great as the Walloon; four are even more predominantly Walloon—Hainaut, Liège, Luxembourg and Namur; while in one province, Brabant, the two elements are fairly balanced. The first point is, how are these elements represented amongst the refugees? The following table, which gives the percentage of total population in and percentage of refugees from each province,

shows very clearly that the French-speaking provinces are under-represented by nearly 50 per cent., while Brabant has furnished practically its due quota of refugees.

Province.	Percentage of population of province to total population of Belgium.	Percentage of refugees from province to total of refugees.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Antwerp ....	13	41·7
East Flanders ....	15	6·6
West Flanders ....	11·5	13·4
Limbourg ....	4	1·0
<b>Total of Flemish-speaking provinces</b> ....	<b>43·5</b>	<b>62·7</b>
<b>Brabant</b> ....	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
Hainaut ....	16·5	4·7
Liège ....	12	11·8
Luxembourg ....	3	0·4
Namur ....	5	1·4
<b>Total of French-speaking provinces</b> ....	<b>36·5</b>	<b>18·3</b>

Dealing with the provinces as units it will be seen that one province, Antwerp, is enormously over-represented; three, West Flanders, Brabant and Liège, are represented; and the remaining five, East Flanders, Limbourg, Hainaut, Luxembourg and Namur, are much under-represented.

Pushing the inquiry a step further it is apparent that from the geographical point of view there are similar disparities within the provinces themselves. Thus in the province of Antwerp, the city of Antwerp itself, with its three suburbs Berchem, Borgerhout and Deurne, which constitute practically one homogeneous whole, has 41 per cent. of the population of the province and has sent 65 per cent. of the refugees from that province, while Malines, with 7 per cent. of the population has sent nearly 17 per cent. of refugees. These two towns, with rather less than half the population of the province, have contributed over 80 per cent. of the refugees, while the rest of the province contributes only about the same number of refugees as Malines by itself. In all the other provinces the results are similar, as the following table clearly shows.

Province.	Town.	Percentage of population to population of province.	Percentage of refugees from province.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Brabant ....	Brussels (city) ....	20	40
	Louvain ....	3	9
East Flanders ....	Alost ....	3·3	9
	Gand ....	15	30
	Lokeren ....	2	4·6
	St. Nicholas ....	3	6
	Termonde ....	0·9	9
West Flanders ....	Ostend ....	5	56
Hainaut ....	Charleroy ....	2·3	9
	Tournai ....	3	6
Liège ....	Herstal ....	2·6	14
	Liège ....	19	35
Limbourg ....	Hasselt ....	6	20
	Tongres ....	4	10
Luxembourg ....	Arlon ....	5	10
Namur ....	Dinant ....	2	12
	Namur ....	9	30

In looking at these figures a word of warning must be given. There is a certain amount of overstatement in the figures relating to Antwerp and Ostend, more pronounced in the case of the latter town than in that of the former, as refugees who had moved into Antwerp and Ostend after the outbreak of the war have in a number of instances given their place of residence in Belgium at their last address in that country.

In the next table I give a comparison between the population of certain areas in Belgium and the numbers of refugees coming from those areas, which illustrates the unrepresentative nature of the refugee population on a somewhat more detailed scale, and incidentally gives the registered places of residence in Belgium of all the refugees who have come to the United Kingdom. This table, like those preceding it, is based on a large sample—over 10 per cent.—of the whole of the principal index.

Province.	Town or area.	Percentage of population of Belgium in town or area.	Percentage of total refugees.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Antwerp	Antwerp (with Berchem, Borgerhout and Deurne) ...	5·4	26·5
	Hoboken, Merxem and Wilryck	0·6	1·3
	Lierre	0·4	0·6
	Malines	0·9	6·8
	Turnhout	0·4	0·1
	Willebroeck	0·1	0·5
	Rest of province	5·2	5·2
Brabant	Brussels city	4·0	8·0
	Outer Brussels (Anderlecht, Etterbeek, Ixelles, Laeken, Molenbeek St. Jean, St. Gilles, St. Joost ten Noorde, Schaerbeek and Uccle)	6·4	3·0
	Louvain	0·6	1·6
	Tirlemont	0·3	0·2
	Rest of province	8·7	6·2
East Flanders	Alost	0·5	0·6
	Gand	2·2	2·0
	Lokeren	0·3	0·3
	St. Nicholas	0·5	0·4
	Termonde	0·1	0·6
	Wetteren	0·2	0·1
	Rest of province	11·2	3·6
West Flanders	Bruges	0·75	1·0
	Courtrai	0·5	0·2
	Ostend	0·7	7·5
	Ypres	0·25	0·3
	Rest of province	9·3	4·4
Hainaut	Charleroy	0·4	0·5
	Gilly	0·3	0·1
	Mons	0·4	0·1
	Tournai	0·5	0·3
	Rest of province	14·9	3·4
Liège	Huy	0·2	0·2
	Herstal	0·3	1·6
	Liège	2·4	4·0
	Seraing	0·6	0·4
	Verviers	0·6	0·8
	Rest of province	7·9	4·8
Limbourg	Hasselt	0·2	0·2
	Tongres	0·15	0·1
	Rest of province	3·65	0·7
Luxembourg	Total of province	3·0	0·4
Namur	Dinant	0·1	0·15
	Namur	0·4	0·35
	Rest of province	4·5	0·9

From this table it will be seen that there are about 10 town areas that are more or less heavily over-represented amongst the refugees, about a dozen that are proportionately represented and that the rest of the country is more or less under-represented.

It is probably a commonplace to say that where you have a proprietary peasantry that element of the population is most firmly rooted in the soil and it will be seen that the rural element in Belgium is much under-represented amongst the refugees. The three provinces which are predominantly agricultural—Limbourg, Luxembourg and Namur—with 12 per cent. of the total population of the country, have furnished 2·8 per cent. of the refugees. Further, a reference to the preceding table will show that in the three other provinces with a large agricultural population, East and West Flanders and Hainaut, the “rest of province,” which includes the whole of the agricultural population, has 36·3 per cent. of the population of Belgium and has only furnished 11·4 per cent. of the total refugees.

Turning to the urban representation it will be seen that two towns, Antwerp and Ostend, with less than one-sixteenth of the total population of Belgium, have furnished one-third of the refugees. Allowing for the overstatement already mentioned, there still remains an enormous over-representation of these two places, and it would perhaps not be too much to say that two places less representative of Belgium as a whole cannot be found in the whole country. Great ports and ultra-fashionable watering-places have invariably populations more or less peculiar to themselves, containing certain elements in great excess and being conspicuously lacking in others. It is not within my province to say whether these populations are in any respects superior or inferior to the general mass of the population. Probably there is much to be said on both sides of this question, and it is fortunate that we are not called upon to attempt to strike any balance in a matter at once so delicate and so complex. If it be conceded that I am right in my general contention that such populations are not true representative samples, I have established my point.

Summing up this section of my inquiry, the conclusion arrived at may be briefly enunciated :—

1. As between the Flemish and Walloon elements the former is over-represented.
2. As between province and province the representation is grossly unequal.
3. As between rural and urban populations the former is much under-represented.
4. As between one urban area and another the representation

There is another point of view from which the question of the representative character of the refugees may be considered—that of their occupation. A brief consideration of the tables in the appendix to this paper will demonstrate that from this point of view also the refugee population is not a representative one. Certain professions and occupations are much over-represented, while others are equally under-represented. Let us take the professional classes as represented by law, medicine and education. The comparisons have had to be made with the figures for occupations given in the Belgian Census Report of 1900, these being the latest at my disposal. The rates are as follows:—

	Rate per mille to total occupied in Belgium.	Rate per mille to total occupied among refugees.
MALES.		
Law ....	2·8	9·3
Medicine ...	1·9	3·0
Education ....	7·1	9·3
Total ....	11·8	21·6
FEMALES.		
Medicine ....	4·7	16·2
Education ....	20·5	58·5
Total ....	25·2	74·7

Thus in these professions we find that amongst the male refugees the over-representation is nearly double, while amongst the females it is nearly treble. The clerks are even more heavily over-represented, the rate per thousand being in Belgium, males, 17·4, females, 3·5; whilst amongst the refugees the rates are, males 54·8, females 43·0. The most heavily over-represented calling is that of the fisherman, which, while it constitutes only 1·2 per 1,000 of the occupied in Belgium, represents 12·4 of the employed refugees. The most important group amongst the refugees from the numerical standpoint is that of the iron and metal trades, numbering as it does over 13,000 persons, and showing an over-representation of more than 100 per cent. There are, of course, quite obvious reasons why this group and that of the fisherman should be over-represented; the latter was provided in most cases with his own means of escape, the former was pretty certain of finding immediate employment in this country. Amongst the female refugees there is also a very heavy over-representation of the domestic servant class, these numbering over 5,000. Another

heavily over-represented class is that of goldsmiths and lapidaries, a result due almost entirely to the tremendous influx of refugees from Antwerp.

On the other hand, as was to be expected from the facts brought forward in the earlier part of this inquiry, agriculture is much under-represented. The Belgian figures give 240 males and 182 females out of every 1,000 employed as being engaged in agriculture, but amongst 1,000 male refugees to this country only 34 were agriculturists, while amongst 1,000 female refugees there were only 18. In other words, if we take the men and women in combination the agricultural refugees were only one-eighth of what they should have been to be proportionally represented. The other important industrial groups which are much under-represented are those engaged in mines and quarries and in textile manufactures. The Belgian and refugee rates in these cases are as follows:—

	Belgian rate.	Refugee rate.
<b>MALES.</b>		
Mines, quarries and their products ....	91·5	24·7
Textile manufactures ....	44·2	18·2
<b>FEMALES.</b>		
Mines, quarries (products) ....	9·9	0·2
Textile manufactures ....	58·1	22·1
Lace and embroidery manufacture ....	77·9	18·5

The causes of these under or over-representations are various, and while some are obvious enough others do not admit of any very simple explanation. There can be little doubt that the course and character of German war operations in Belgium have had a very considerable influence, but to try to determine the extent of this would be not only beyond my powers but outside the modest limits of my paper. The figures given in the tables in the appendix should, however, prove most valuable to anyone who has the time and the knowledge for the elucidation. It has been possible for me to show not only the extent to which the refugees do not represent the general population of Belgium, but also in a general way the character of that over- or under-representation.

It may be remarked that at the opening of this section of my paper I alluded to the linguistic constitution of Belgium. It was my original intention to pursue this investigation into the non-representative character of the refugee population by inquiry into the languages spoken by the refugees, and I had made some progress



on these lines when I abandoned the undertaking. This abandonment was brought about by a variety of causes, the most important being that I was satisfied that no satisfactory comparisons could be made. The long and elaborate tables given in Vol. III of the 1910 Census Report for Belgium appear to me suspect, and the results of my own researches into the question on the refugee register have confirmed my view of the unreliability of this section of the Belgian Census. Then I find that the language question is one that invariably becomes a battle ground on which prejudice is apt to take the place of judgment and passion the place of reason. It is one of those intimate domestic questions which the disinterested outsider is well advised to leave to be settled by the members of the family concerned, for one is apt to find that if you try to pour oil on troubled waters you succeed actually in adding fuel to the flames.

In conclusion may I say that I make no extravagant claims for the Central Register. No one has a keener consciousness of its defects, but on the other hand no one knows so well the difficulties that have had to be encountered and overcome. We had not only to create a new machine, but to evolve a staff out of men and women who were entirely untrained in the work to be done. We had to learn in the unpleasant school of failure how to achieve some measure of success. What the precise measure of that success has been must be left to be determined by the event. One thing, however, I can do, and that is to put on record my personal tribute to much good service rendered by our temporary staff, to many cases in which the most commendable zeal and intelligence have been displayed by its members. At its maximum that staff numbered nearly 100 and consisted of English and Belgians of both sexes. The services of some of these of both sexes and of both nationalities have been of the greatest value. Of my colleagues of the General Register Office and Census Office staff who have assisted in the work I can speak in the highest terms. They showed themselves indefatigable in energy and in resource. Until the work of the National Register claimed his attention, the Registrar-General led us with an energy and vigour that often left me like panting Time to toil after him in vain.

Our work naturally brought us into close touch with the Belgian civil and military authorities in this country and our relations with them have always been of the most cordial character. They have shown a keen and thorough appreciation of our efforts, and although it has not been possible to meet their desires on every point they have cordially and courteously recognised that our limitations were not those of our will but of our power.

TABLE I.—*Showing the number of persons of certain specified occupations according to the Belgian Census of 1900, and the number of employable refugees who have arrived in this country.*

Occupations.	Belgian Census of 1900.		Refugees.
	Males, 2,219,748 ; females, 900,322 (excluding army, monks, nuns, &c.).		Total : Males, 70,731 ; females, 16,584.
1. Post office, railway service and conveyance	M. ....	56,556	7,124
	F. ....	2,054	88
2. Police	M. ....	6,961	203
3. Government and municipal (including hospitals)	M. ....	55,796	1,061
	F. ....	1,272	73
4. Army (not included)	....	—	—
5. Clergymen, church service (monks, nuns not included)	M. ....	11,502	368
	F. ....	264	16
6. Lawyers, law clerks	M. ....	6,109	661
	F. ....	21	3
7. Doctors, medical service	M. ....	5,474	320
	F. ....	4,228	268
Doctors (included in 7)	M. ....	4,182	215
8. Teachers	M. ....	15,864	657
	F. ....	18,482	970
9. Literary, scientific service, surveyors	M. ....	3,644	402
	F. ....	137	27
10. Civil engineers, architects	M. ....	3,088	536
	F. ....	2	—
11. Other art service	M. ....	12,729	1,289
	F. ....	2,009	387
12. Domestic servants and cooks	M. ....	15,243	461
	F. ....	120,499	5,290
13. Other domestic services	M. ....	42,342	153
	F. ....	24,162	868
14. Clerks	M. ....	38,630	3,896
	F. ....	3,134	713
15. Stockbrokers, agents, travelers	M. ....	15,560	1,850
	F. ....	984	27
16. Bank, insurance service, merchants	M. ....	6,788	1,865
	F. ....	482	204
17. Agriculture	M. ....	533,811	2,437
	F. ....	163,714	292
18. Fishing	M. ....	2,689	874
	F. ....	32	8
19. Mining, quarrying and working in stones, &c.	M. ....	200,321	1,747
	F. ....	8,915	3
20. Iron and steel manufacture (including iron founding)	M. ....	36,618	542
	F. ....	777	—
21. Other metal manufactures	M. ....	12,654	100
	F. ....	466	—
22. Machine manufacture (engineering)	M. ....	107,112	8,446
	F. ....	2,492	40
23. Gunsmiths	M. ....	13,426	1,666
	F. ....	1,017	129
24. Boat-building	M. ....	1,927	514
	F. ....	15	2
25. Construction of vehicles (including motor cars)	M. ....	13,312	1,877
	F. ....	73	33

Table showing the number of persons of certain specified occupations, &amp;c.—Contd.

Occupations.		Belgian Census of 1900.	Refugees. Total.
26. Goldsmiths, lapidaries	M. ....	7,221	2,167
	F. ....	529	111
27. Watch, clock makers	M. ....	2,390	82
	F. ....	14	2
28. Workers in instruments, games, &c. (including elec- tricians) ....	M. ....	4,729	1,445
	F. ....	373	29
29. Building and works of con- struction (except carpen- ters, paperhangers)	M. ....	120,830	3,579
	F. ....	438	3
30. Upholsterers, paperhangers	M. ....	10,348	359
	F. ....	311	15
31. Carpenters, cabinet makers, wood workers ....	M. ....	109,990	4,009
	F. ....	1,763	94
32. Cane, straw workers ....	M. ....	2,785	116
	F. ....	2,976	67
33. Brick, tile, earthenware manufacture....	M. ....	19,506	285
	F. ....	2,836	30
34. Glass manufacture ....	M. ....	19,705	371
	F. ....	2,460	15
35. Dye, paint, chemicals, rubber, &c. ....	M. ....	10,652	508
	F. ....	2,242	105
36. Working in skins and leather	M. ....	8,530	243
	F. ....	1,319	59
37. Saddlers ....	M. ....	4,051	118
	F. ....	22	2
38. Brush, feather, &c., making	M. ....	2,524	72
	F. ....	1,345	14
39. Paper works, bookbinding	M. ....	8,225	129
	F. ....	3,249	45
40. Printing ....	M. ....	12,831	511
	F. ....	674	18
41. Textile manufactures and oilcloth-making ....	M. ....	96,418	1,224
	F. ....	52,362	366
42. Lace manufacture (not in 41)	M. ....	1,228	50
	F. ....	65,223	135
43. Embroidery making (not in 41) ....	M. ....	387	17
	F. ....	4,831	172
44. Seamstresses, milliners, cap- makers ....	M. ....	2,591	56
	F. ....	42,780	1,163
45. Tailors, dressmakers ....	M. ....	31,178	1,029
	F. ....	103,518	1,818
46. Boot, shoe-making ....	M. ....	41,839	697
	F. ....	3,598	43
47. Other workers in dress	M. ....	3,197	120
	F. ....	7,340	85
48. Hairdressers ....	M. ....	8,342	402
	F. ....	491	53
49. Workers in food ....	M. ....	29,492	369
	F. ....	1,828	32
50. Bread-makers ....	M. ....	25,906	640
	F. ....	1,305	23
51. Tobacco manufacture	M. ....	9,306	240
	F. ....	2,770	102

Table showing the number of persons of certain specified occupations, &c.—*Contd.*

Occupations.		Belgian Census of 1900.	Refugees, Total.
52. Maltsters, brewers, &c.	M. ....	18,067	369
	F. ....	464	15
53. Eating, boarding house, hotels wine merchants ....	M. ....	105,632	1,334
	F. ....	58,502	461
54. Dealers in food ....	M. ....	59,102	1,294
	F. ....	43,108	360
55. Dealers in dress and textile fabrics ....	M. ....	16,947	561
	F. ....	14,296	378
56. Other dealers ....	M. ....	58,010	2,359
	F. ....	22,316	812
57. Gas, electricity, sanitary, sewage ....	M. ....	3,834	144
	F. ....	119	1
58. Others (including dock la- bourers, factory labourers and workers undefined, &c.)	M. ....	145,799	6,783
	F. ....	99,689	517

TABLE II.—BELGIAN OCCUPATIONS.—*Rate per 1,000 of certain specified occupations to the total occupied population at the Census of 1900 and also to the occupied refugees who have visited this country.*

Occupations.		Belgian Census of 1900. Males, 2,219,748 ; females, 900,322 (excluding army, monks, nuns, &c.).	Refugees.
			Total : Males, 70,731 ; females, 16,584.
1. Post office, railway service and conveyance ....	M. ....	25·5	100·7
	F. ....	2·3	5·3
2. Police ....	M. ....	3·1	2·9
3. Government and municipal (including hospitals)	M. ....	25·1	15·0
	F. ....	1·4	4·4
4. Army ( <i>not</i> included) ....		—	—
5. Clergymen, church service (monks, nuns <i>not</i> included)	M. ....	5·2	5·2
	F. ....	0·3	1·0
6. Lawyers, law clerks ....	M. ....	2·8	9·3
	F. ....	0·0	0·2
7. Doctors, medical service Doctors (included in 7)	M. ....	2·5	4·5
	F. ....	4·7	16·2
8. Teachers ....	M. ....	1·9	3·0
	F. ....	7·1	9·3
9. Literary, scientific service, surveyors ....	M. ....	20·5	58·5
	F. ....	1·6	5·7
10. Civil engineers, architects	M. ....	0·2	1·6
	F. ....	1·4	7·6
11. Other art service ....	M. ....	0·0	—
	F. ....	5·7	18·2
12. Domestic servants and cooks	M. ....	2·2	23·4
	F. ....	6·8	6·5
13. Other domestic services	M. ....	133·8	319·1
	F. ....	19·1	2·2
14. Clerks ....	M. ....	26·8	52·4
	F. ....	17·4	54·8
	F. ....	3·5	43·0

*Belgian Occupations.—Rate per 1,000 of certain specified occupations, &c.—Contd.*

Occupations.		Belgian Census of 1900.	Refugees. Total.
15. Stockbrokers, agents, travel- lers ....	M. ....	7·0	26·2
	F. ....	1·1	1·6
16. Bank, insurance service, merchants ....	M. ....	3·0	26·4
	F. ....	0·5	12·3
17. Agriculture ....	M. ....	240·5	34·4
	F. ....	181·9	17·6
18. Fishing....	M. ....	1·2	12·4
	F. ....	0·0	0·5
19. Mining, quarrying, and work- ing in stones, &c. ....	M. ....	91·5	24·7
	F. ....	9·9	0·2
20. Iron and steel manufacture (including iron founding)	M. ....	16·5	7·7
	F. ....	0·8	—
21. Other metal manufacture	M. ....	5·7	1·4
	F. ....	0·5	—
22. Machine making (engineer- ing) and working in metals	M. ....	48·2	119·4
	F. ....	2·8	2·4
23. Gunsmiths ....	M. ....	6·0	23·5
	F. ....	1·1	7·8
24. Boat-building ....	M. ....	0·9	7·3
	F. ....	0·0	0·1
25. Construction of vehicles (in- cluding motor cars)....	M. ....	6·0	26·5
	F. ....	0·1	2·0
26. Goldsmiths, lapidaries	M. ....	3·2	30·6
	F. ....	0·6	6·7
27. Watch, clock makers	M. ....	1·3	1·2
	F. ....	0·0	0·1
28. Workers in instruments, games, &c. (including elec- tricians) ....	M. ....	2·1	20·4
	F. ....	0·4	1·8
29. Building and works of con- struction (except carpen- ters, paperhangers)	M. ....	54·4	50·6
	F. ....	0·4	0·2
30. Upholsterers, paperhangers	M. ....	4·7	5·1
	F. ....	0·3	0·9
31. Carpenters, cabinet makers, wood workers ....	M. ....	49·4	56·7
	F. ....	1·9	5·7
32. Cane, straw workers ....	M. ....	1·3	1·6
	F. ....	3·3	4·0
33. Brick, tile, earthenware manufacture....	M. ....	8·8	4·0
	F. ....	3·2	1·8
34. Glass manufacture ....	M. ....	8·9	5·2
	F. ....	2·7	0·9
35. Dye, paint, chemicals, rubber, &c. ....	M. ....	4·8	7·2
	F. ....	2·5	6·3
36. Working in skins and leather	M. ....	3·8	3·4
	F. ....	1·5	3·6
37. Saddlers ....	M. ....	1·8	1·7
	F. ....	0·0	0·1
38. Brush, feather, &c., making	M. ....	1·1	1·0
	F. ....	1·5	0·8
39. Paper workers, bookbinding	M. ....	3·7	1·8
	F. ....	3·6	2·7
40. Printing ....	M. ....	5·8	7·2
	F. ....	0·7	1·1

*Belgian Occupations.—Rate per 1,000 of certain specified occupations, &c.—Contd.*

Occupations.		Belgian Census of 1900.	Refugees. Total.
41. Textile manufactures and oilcloth-making ....	M. ....	43·4	17·3
	F. ....	58·1	22·1
42. Lace manufacture (not in 41) ....	M. ....	0·6	0·7
	F. ....	72·5	8·1
43. Embroidery making (not in 41) ....	M. ....	0·2	0·2
	F. ....	5·4	10·4
44. Seamstresses, milliners, cap- makers ....	M. ....	1·1	0·8
	F. ....	47·5	70·2
45. Tailors, dressmakers ....	M. ....	14·0	14·6
	F. ....	115·0	109·7
46. Boot, shoe-making ....	M. ....	18·9	9·9
	F. ....	4·0	2·6
47. Other workers in dress	M. ....	1·4	1·7
	F. ....	8·2	5·1
48. Hairdressers ....	M. ....	3·8	5·7
	F. ....	0·6	3·2
49. Workers in food ....	M. ....	13·3	5·2
	F. ....	2·9	1·9
50. Breadmakers ....	M. ....	11·7	9·0
	F. ....	1·4	1·4
51. Tobacco manufacture	M. ....	4·2	3·4
	F. ....	3·1	6·2
52. Maltsters, brewers, &c.	M. ....	8·1	5·2
	F. ....	0·5	0·9
53. Eating, boarding house, hotels, wine merchants	M. ....	47·6	18·9
	F. ....	65·0	27·8
54. Dealers in food ....	M. ....	26·6	18·3
	F. ....	47·8	21·7
55. Dealers in dress and textile fabrics ....	M. ....	7·6	7·9
	F. ....	15·9	22·8
56. Other dealers ....	M. ....	26·1	33·4
	F. ....	24·8	49·0
57. Gas, electricity, sanitary, sewage ....	M. ....	1·7	2·0
	F. ....	0·1	0·1
58. Others, including dock la- bourers, general labourers, factory labourers, and workers undefined, &c.	M. ....	65·7	95·8
	F. ....	110·8	31·1

## DISCUSSION ON MR. DE JASTRZEBSKI'S PAPER.

MR. A. MAUDSLAY (the Hon. Secretary of the War Refugees Committee) said it gave him very great pleasure to be allowed to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. de Jastrzebski for his most interesting Paper. He himself knew from his personal knowledge of trying to make a card index in the early days of the inrush of Belgian refugees, what a difficult thing it was to discriminate between written Flemish names without having had vast experience of the Flemish language. He knew the great difficulties that had arisen in analysing those names, because a turn of the pen might mean the designation of a totally different family. It was a task that required the very greatest care and the closest scrutiny. The author had spoken in his Paper of the pre-registration days when the registration of the refugees was first instituted at the premises of the Aldwych Committee, and a department was created to deal with the subject. Inquiries were received at that department from thousands of people in person during the months of September and October, when Antwerp fell. A card index of some 16,000 names was compiled. A separate index was also set up for wounded soldiers. All that work was voluntarily done by some kind ladies who spoke French and Flemish. The staff at Aldwych being composed of voluntary workers at the time, it naturally took some time to compile the card index, and they met with the very greatest difficulty in being able to put it into anything like shape. The task soon became too great, because inquiries by letter came in in thousands, and it was a great relief to the Aldwych Committee when the Registrar-General and his colleagues came one afternoon in October and offered, on behalf of the Government, to relieve the Aldwych Committee of that great burden. At the same time the card index relating to the wounded soldiers was transferred to the Belgian Committee at the Kingsway offices. At the instance of the Registrar-General they had endeavoured to keep a bureau of information, with the addresses of all refugees who passed through their hands. At that bureau the forms of registration were filled up and then forwarded to Somerset House. Forms of inquiry were also filled in, so that Somerset House could give information to friends and relatives inquiring about refugees. It naturally took some time for the Registrar-General's staff to have the list sufficiently in order to supply information to the War Refugees Committee, but proper forms were now being sent to Somerset House, and he hoped that everything was going on in the proper manner. He would only add that the Register of Belgian Refugees as now compiled had been of the very greatest service to their work amongst

the Belgian refugees, and, on behalf of his Committee, he had much pleasure in formally proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. de Jastrzebski for his interesting Paper.

Sir EDWARD BRABROOK said he had pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to the author for his interesting Paper. He ventured to think they were indebted to him not merely for what appeared in the printed Paper, but also for those observations which he had interjected without manuscript. They were sympathetic, interesting, and much to the point. The author had contributed, he thought, a document to the Society which would stand in history, and he could not help thinking that if at the time of previous incursions of refugees into this country—for instance, at the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes—they had only possessed the same detailed information with regard to those refugees that they now possessed in the register which the Registrar-General had obtained of the refugees from Belgium, it would be a historical document of the greatest possible importance. Therefore, their thanks were eminently due to the author of the Paper.

The CHAIRMAN said there were various gentlemen there that evening who had been closely connected with this work. There was the Vicomte de Beughem, who was on the Committee which sits at India House and Kingsway, and there was also Mr. H. A. Leggett, who is the Secretary of the War Refugees Committee. He (the Chairman) did not know whether they would be disposed to say a few words to them on the subject. We should be very glad to hear them if they are.

The VICOMTE DE BEUGHEM (speaking in French) referred to the value the Register had been to him in recruiting the Belgian army. As a result of the Royal Belgian Decree of March 1, 1915, he had: first, to organise the recruiting commissions in the United Kingdom, which required the knowledge *a priori* of the approximate number of Belgians of military age; and secondly, to search for these men disseminated all over the United Kingdom, and to make them appear before the recruiting commissions. This matter would have been exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, had the Alien Registration Act and the Register of Somerset House not been there. Thanks to these circumstances it had been possible to find in the United Kingdom about 13,000 soldiers who were sent to the training camps organised in France to serve as reserve for the army in the field. To-day there remained still to be found about 1,000 defaulters and deserters, who succeeded in escaping by giving false names, or registering themselves under false addresses, or who did not register at all. This work was in a fair way of completion, and he took this opportunity to thank all the British authorities, and in particular the Registrar-General and his officer, Mr. de Jastrzebski, for the help and assistance they had continually given him.



Mr. H. A. LEGGETT said he was afraid he really had nothing to add to the discussion, because at the time he was Secretary of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Government to inquire into the subject of the Belgian Refugees the register was very far from complete, and it was almost impossible, he thought, for Somerset House to supply them with, or for the Committee to get, any reliable figures as to the extent of the problem before the country at that time. Later on, when a Commission was appointed by the Government to put into operation the recommendations of the Committee, the employment of the refugees was a matter with which they were primarily concerned, and they were supplied by the Registrar-General with an enormous amount of most valuable information as to the manner in which the refugees had succeeded in getting employment. The Labour Exchanges placed many thousands; he could not give the figure, but he had no doubt that Mr. Colegate, of the Labour Exchanges Department, who was present, could give it to them. He would like to pay one small tribute to the work of the local committees all over the country in getting employment for refugees which it had not been possible to obtain through the ordinary official channels. Those local committees devoted time and trouble—personal trouble of the most extreme kind—to finding all manner of jobs for all kinds of people, and they fitted square pegs into round holes, and round pegs into square holes, all over the country. There had been a very great desire on the part of the Belgians to take work. There were people in every country who did not care about work and who would not work if they could help it. But the vast majority of the Belgian refugees were only too ready to take every opportunity of turning their hands to something so that they might use their leisure time—of which they had a great deal—to relieve their hosts of the burden (a pleasant one in a great many cases, but a heavy financial burden very often) in regard to them. He was glad to have this opportunity of paying his tribute to the Belgians in that respect.

The CHAIRMAN (the Right Hon. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON) said that if no one else wished to add anything to the discussion, he might perhaps be the mouthpiece to convey to the reader of the Paper the vote of thanks which had been moved, and to express their great gratification that the author had been good enough to lay before them so interesting and so practical a Paper. It was very satisfactory to learn from the Vicomte de Beughem that the information supplied to him enabled him to substantially recruit the Belgian army. That was not the least satisfactory of the consequences which the registration had given rise to. Speaking for himself, he was at Deal when the first great rush of refugees came over. It was a small place, but they had to make provision for something like thirteen hundred refugees at very short notice; and he entirely endorsed what Mr. Leggett said, that nothing could have been more praiseworthy than the manner in which everybody connected, either officially or unofficially, with the work of registration bestirred themselves

in placing these unfortunate people in situations where they would be able to earn a livelihood. He was sure that the organisation in connection with this branch of the subject was one of which they might fairly be proud. As Sir Edward Brabrook had said, the information compiled there was very valuable, and he only wished that in the past there had been some statistician who had been able accurately to compile information concerning forced movements of population such as that which was effected by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. It was very melancholy for him, as an old statistician, to think that as one got towards the close of one's life, the Statistical Society, whose object had been in the past to record the progress of the human race, the increase of wealth, and the growth of prosperity, should find in this war material of a very different character. The acts of infamy to which the author of the Paper referred, which drove the unfortunate population out of Belgium, had not been confined to Belgium. They were part and parcel of the system which had been taught to German officers, and carried out by the German General Staff in every country which the German army had occupied. The same thing had gone on in France, in Poland, in Courland, and in Serbia. Therefore there would be a melancholy mass of material available for the statistician to show that, though civilisation had increased, the brutality of those who professed the highest culture had more than correspondingly increased. He was sure the author would be pleased to see how very much his Paper had been appreciated, and on behalf of the Statistical Society he begged to convey to him their best thanks for the excellence of that Paper.

Mr. T. T. S. DE JASTRZEBSKI, in reply, thanked the meeting most sincerely for the extremely kind way in which they had received his humble effort. As he had said at the beginning, it was hardly a subject on which an experienced statistician would care to expand himself. Fortunately for himself he was not an experienced statistician. It was said that the Kingdom of Heaven was sometimes entered by violence; and he had entered the kingdom of statistics in that way at an advanced age and was only now beginning to feel his feet. It was certainly due to the War Refugees Committee that one should say what wonderful work they did. In the course of his Paper, which had been concerned entirely with the Somerset House register, the only reference he had been able to make to the War Refugees Committee was that their records were unreliable. But he could assure the meeting that the fact that those records were as good as they were, had been a source of wonderment to the compilers of the register, when the conditions under which the Committee had worked were considered. At Somerset House they had worked under conditions much more favourable. He wished to pay the warmest tribute to the extraordinary zeal and intelligence displayed by those voluntary workers in the early days before the work of registration had been undertaken at all. Their work was done in the most difficult circumstances conceivable, where, as he had

himself seen, the refugees practically did not know what they were saying, and where the interpreter combined an ignorance of Flemish with a want of knowledge of English. In those circumstances it was wonderful that anything had been done at all. He quite agreed as to the extraordinary value it would have been to the history of this country had there been something of this sort done at the time of the great influx of Huguenot refugees into England, and he could assure the Society that from the inception of this register they had it steadily before their minds that, in addition to the work they were doing for the refugees, they were endeavouring to compile something which would be of value to future students of the economic and social history of the country. They had kept that steadily and persistently in mind from the very beginning. For the very little he had been able to do for him, the Vicomte de Beughem had been very flattering. As he had said in his Paper, it had never been want of will, but want of ability on their part, and if they could have scraped together all the brave Belgians who had hidden themselves in order to escape military service, they would have scraped them together and brought them all forward for military service with the greatest of willingness. He was very pleased to hear Mr. Leggett speak so highly of the work of the local committees. Many of those committees did yeoman service. Of course it must be remembered that their work at Somerset House on the register had not been work done in personal touch with the refugees at all. As a matter of fact he had endeavoured to avoid that altogether. To him the refugee was an abstraction on a card. He did not want to imagine the refugee as a human being at all; because the moment the personal element came in, if one once sat down and thought what one was doing, one would have broken down. Most of the work that had to be done by the local committees was work that could only be done by personal contact and personal service. And he thought the way in which, as a whole, the people of this country received, looked after and gave personal service to the unfortunate sufferers who came from Belgium, would be one of the proudest records in the history of this country. Nothing remained but for him to thank the meeting very much for the kind manner in which they had received his Paper, and he expressed the hope that by this time next year, if they called upon him to do so, he might be able to give them an account of the repatriation of the refugees from Belgium.

A vote of thanks was passed unanimously.

The following Candidates were elected Fellows of the Society:—

Abd el Kereem, M.A.  
 Arthur Frank Goodman.  
 Alfred Hartwell.  
 William Whiteford Jenkins.

Matthew Keating, M.P.  
 Arthur Wilhelm Madsen, B.Sc. Edin.  
 Edward Penton.  
 Sir George Saltmarsh.