lowered by expenses.

A spokesman for the General Optical Council said that a careers pamphlet showed that an optician could earn £2,500 or more a year. This figure would be raised in the next issue of the pamphlet.

SEABIRD DEATHS 'LACK SINGLE CAUSE'

The deaths of thousands of sea birds off the west coast of Britain could not be put down to one specific mystery cause, Dr Martin Holdgate, deputy director of the Nature Conservancy, said yesterday at a meeting of the Natural Environment Research Council in London.

It was probably an "unusual combination of usual causes," he said. Three factors had contributed to the high death rate—the annual moult, severe gales and oil pollution.

Examinations had not revealed anything abnormal, although some of the birds showed signs of "internal lesions and respiratory infection." There was no danger to human life.

Luxurious

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