

FINDS THREE BASIC HUMAN BODY TYPES

Man started his evolution with a stocky, solid body of medium height and moderately brunette complexion, and worked both ways from that beginning, according to Prof. R. Bennett Bean of the University of Virginia, who proposes a new system of classification of racial types in forthcoming issues of the quarterly Review of Biology and of the American Journal of Anatomy.

Prof. Bean regards the primitive Neanderthal man of central Europe as the ancestor of the human race, and his physique is taken as the type of a medium-built body, or "Mesomorph". From this central type development took place in two directions, toward a long-legged, long-headed figure and toward a short-limbed, round-headed one. The former Prof. Bean calls "Hypermorph", or "high-form", and the latter "Hypomorph" or "low-form".

According to the theory, changes in the body conformation took place when the descendants of the original, "mesomorphic" men began their migration. Those who remained inland, under conditions more or less similar to those of their first home, retained their medium structure. Those who migrated to the coastlands developed the longer and rangier "hypermorphic" characteristics under their new environment. Those who wandered southward and southeastward toward the tropics, or northward into the arctic zone, got into regions more or less unfavorable for the best human development and, in Prof. Bean's words, "were reduced to a more or less infantile form, with short arms and legs and round heads and faces. This finds its extreme manifestation among the Negrillos of Africa, the Negritos of the Pacific, and the Malays, and in a more or less modified form among the peoples of the sub-arctic regions, as the Siberians and the Lapps."

Prof. Bean's new system of classification does not run parallel with the older arrangements of the divisions of the human race, but cuts right across them. In the white race there are both mesomorphs and hypermorphs, but none of the low type hypomorphs. In the two other great color-groups, the blacks and the yellow-browns, all three of the new form-types are found.

THE SPHINX HAS FIRST CLEANING SINCE 1886

Visitors to Egypt now have the opportunity to obtain an unobstructed view of the front of the Sphinx, including its feet which are on exhibition for the first time in forty years. The Egyptian government, according to advices reaching here, has undertaken not only to clear away the ever mounting desert sand but also to make much needed repairs on the venerable genius of the Nile.

The clearing away of the tons of sand and gravel necessary to uncover the Sphinx completely involves so much labor that it was undertaken but three times during the nineteenth century, the last excavation occurring in 1886. A veritable army of fellaheen is required to remove sand by the basketful to a point far enough away so that it will not immediately blow back and render their labor useless. It is recorded by medieval travelers that sometimes only the head of the image has been visible over the shifting sands of the desert.

Between the feet there is now on view the stele, or sculptured tablet of Tahut~~ness~~ IV, on which is recorded a dream that came to that monarch while taking a noonday nap in the Sphinx's shadow.

Archaeologists are somewhat disturbed by several cracks that have previously escaped notice in the rock from which the image is carved. These are being filled under governmental direction with a specially prepared cement. The explanation has been offered that they have been caused by seepage from water that has collected in a hole about three feet deep at the top of the head.

There are various legends about this hole. Some say it is merely a tomb shaft, while others have fruitlessly investigated it with the idea of finding an entrance to subterranean treasure chambers.

The French Egyptologist, Hippolyte Boussac, has suggested that the hole was designed to hold the base of a gigantic headdress, such as the Egyptian god Osiris is usually depicted as wearing. It may either have been lost, he says, or never finished like some of the European cathedrals which are lacking a tower or two of the original design, several of them to this day.

TEMPERAMENTAL BACTERIA PROTECT MAN'S HEALTH

Why do some bacteria start to grow later than others when placed in a different but favorable environment? However much scientists argue over the reasons, this unaccounted for fact is of very great importance. For this property, which is called dormancy, plays an important part in the body's resistance to infectious disease.

It has been suggested variously by bacteriologists: that some temperamental bacteria individuals do not recover from the shock of being transferred to strange environment, even if it is auspicious enough for the common herd to grow in; that some have thicker walls than others; and that some cells suffer from what is technically known as "heat inhibition" when transplanted to a new medium for growth.

In a paper in the Journal of Infectious Diseases Victor Burke and two collaborators at the State College of Washington cover the situation by saying that dormancy is probably due to a combination of all these factors.

This temperamental behavior on the part of some bacteria, the paper continues, is of importance to man because it cuts down the chances of infection by reducing the number of organisms that would otherwise start growing in the body all at once. Since the bacterial cells begin to multiply at different times the body has an opportunity to initiate defensive reactions before the cells all develop. If enough of them remain dormant a sufficiently long time they will be excluded by the white corpuscles before serious development takes place.

Two-headed snakes, abnormal creatures like two-headed calves, are occasionally found.
