

WELL BRED AMERICANS CONQUER ENVIRONMENT

The story of America, with its many interwoven threads of migration, demonstrate that good blood persistently seeks and finds for itself a desirable environment, while descendants of poorer stock settle down in less desirable places with a shrug of the shoulders.

This important role that inheritance plays in shaping the careers of individuals and families was stressed by Dr. Arthur H. Estabrook, in his recent presidential address before the Eugenics Research Association.

Dr. Estabrook pointed out that very definite strains of people have been carried across the continent and deposited here and there by the shifting process of the pioneer movements.

"Studies seem clearly to indicate that the early pioneers in the settlement of the wilderness were from stocks of superior ability and physique," he stated. "As they went westward, the more energetic were continually seeking to reach regions and areas that were capable of development, and if by chance they became pocketed in undesirable places, the energetic stocks and individuals again moved on, leaving the less active in the areas where there was poorer chance for development."

Describing the static conditions in places where social and mental defectives have become established and multiplied, Dr. Estabrook showed that there is no blood with ability in such places, so that schools and community organizations have little influence in raising the social and economic level. Poor stocks continue to mate with poor stocks and offspring with only low mental equipment result.

If immigration were to cease, the slums of a city would in time correspond exactly to these rough, unproductive rural sections, he declared, continuing:

"This situation exists now in the slums of some of the smaller, long settled cities along the Hudson River, where little immigration has taken place in recent years."

More study of the background of early Americans was urged, in order to show the influence of superior strains of inheritance and more particularly the sinister influence of mental and social defectives.

Before the year 1700, thousands of convicts and wanderers were sent to this country from England, some historians estimating the number as high as 100,000. But the histories of these people have not been traced back to their old world homes.

Dr. Estabrook raised the question of whether some of the wanderlust, the mental defect, the social inadequacy, as shown by such large groups as the Tribe of Ishmael of Indiana and western states can be explained by the influence of some few mental defectives who were among the paupers, idlers, and ruffians picked up in England to fill the quotas of population guaranteed by the Virginia Company.

"The tribe of Ishmael," he said, "has been traced genealogically to Virginia and the Carolinas in the earlier periods, but no further analysis can be made, as no records have been located in this country which would give the social or political

classification minutely of early migrants into Virginia. Search for such data should be instituted in England. The Old Bailey and other prison records, ships' manifests, and the like are available there."

Records showing the names and histories of all persons sent to this country in pre-Revolutionary days under any form of servitude would be of great value in charting the trends in American heredity, Dr. Estabrook pointed out.

SUPERIOR CHILDREN PUSHED TOO RAPIDLY, WARNS EDUCATOR

Children who show a natural tendency to be superior mentally should not be pushed ahead through school grades too rapidly is the warning given by Dr. William T. Root, professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.

The great trouble with home training is the fact that so many parents like to point with pride to the school achievements of their children, and lose sight of the great importance of a balanced program for the child, says Dr. Root in a report in a recent issue of Childhood Education. A balanced program, he declares, must include plenty of play and social contacts with other children of the same age.

Dr. Root urges that health and physical adjustment of the mentally superior child should be given first consideration, and that its superior learning ability should be utilized by more extensive and intensive study rather than by advancing pupils several grades in school. Study of art or music or some other useful subject in which the child happens to be interested is suggested as a means of keeping the bright child occupied.

In warning parents and teachers against grouping superior children in with older, more socially mature children, he points out that the child is so easily molded in the early and formative years that it should be given every opportunity to develop those worthwhile traits of character which can be brought out only by careful social contacts and avoidance of instilling intellectual priggishness.

CATERPILLARS CAUSE POISONING

Along with mosquitoes, chiggers and poison ivy, vacationists and campers are warned to be on their guard against caterpillars of the sort popularly known as fuzzy.

Dr. George E. Beyer of the Louisiana state board of health has made a survey of the caterpillar situation in that region which shows that some species are actually seriously poisonous. The spines or hairs of the common "wooly bear" have an irritating effect on the skin somewhat similar to nettles that is fairly well known, while another culprit is the greyish caterpillar of the widely distributed tussock moth with its tufts of brown whiskers at either end and rows of red spots along its back.