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GENETICS

Will Blending of Races Produce Super-men?

By MARJORIE MACDILL

Will future ages see the world populated by a race of super-men or super-morons?

Fast modern transportation, that has carried civilized peoples into the remote corners of the earth, is bringing about problems of race mixture such as have never existed before in the history of mankind. Attention has been called to this condition by Dr. Charles B. Davenport, director of the Department of Genetics, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Thousands of enterprising pioneers from overcrowded Europe are tapping the resources of the tropics and are intermarrying with the natives. America's great melting pot has been fluxing together adventurers from every corner of the globe for over three generations. With transoceanic airways in prospect that will make contacts between Czech and Chinese, Eskimo and Esthonian a matter of casual occurrence, statesmen as well as eugenists and biologists are asking what the consequences of this great mingling of races is going to be. Should it be welcomed as tending to produce higher types than we now have or should steps be taken to prevent immigration to any country as a menace to its culture?

It is difficult to arrive at a dispassionate scientific analysis of the outcome of human hybridity because the subject is one that almost invariably, even in the best of minds, arouses a certain amount of emotional bias.

Biologists tell us that two striking results of hybridization stand out in the plant and animal kingdoms. One is rapidity of growth and large body size, with sometimes increased resistance to disease, as in the mule. The second is increased variability especially in the second generation. New combinations of traits arise, some of which are little suited to pass the censor of natural selection, while some may be superior to those



THE VIGOROUS BLOOD OF THE VIKINGS runs side by side with that of languorous South Sea Islanders in the veins of this personable young Norwegian-Polynesian

of the original pair, thus giving the hybrids a good start in the struggle for existence.

Reviewing the haphazard experiments in human hybridization in the past it becomes clear that each race that has persisted a long time in a distinct environment has achieved certain adaptations to that environment. The black skin of the tropical negro protects him from sunburn. The fat of the Eskimo is a blanket against the cold of the frozen North. The intelligence and ambition of the European is one of the outcomes of the competition of a life of commerce that arose on a continent that nature adapted for trade with a deeply indented coast line. The great industry of the Chinese arose from the pressure of dense population and ever present danger of famine.

Blends of these varied characteristics came about first through men's migratory wanderings. Later came the conquest of distance through

transportation by boats propelled by wind and then by steam. Now new countries are being opened up by rail, by automobile and by airplane. Any one can go anywhere and certainly automobile sales and steamship bookings will bear witness that everybody and his wife and family is on the way. Those that have not the latter perquisites of joy and happiness acquire them after they get there. Consequently mating of diverse nationalities is occurring as never before.

In this crossing of races now going on there are sometimes combinations of conditions which lead to disharmony from the conflict of developmental tendencies.

"Thus," explained Dr. Davenport, "in America we have a union of races, characterized by large teeth in large jaws, with others having small teeth in small jaws. It has been suggested by orthodontists, specialists who correct irregular teeth, that a combination of an hereditary tendency to large teeth, combined with hereditary small jaws produces the crossing of teeth which has made orthodontia so important a branch of medicine in the United States. Such crowded jaws are in striking contrast with the uniform arcades that one sees in comparatively unmixed, primitive peoples.

"Mental and temperamental incompatibilities may also arise, as we see in the mulattoes of North America which combine something of a white man's intelligence and ambition with an insufficient intelligence to realize that ambition. This leads in the hybrid to dissatisfaction and a feeling that he is not getting a fair deal."

On the other hand some of the crosses achieved in the Hawaiian Islands are very successful. Interracial marriages from at least five different strains make Hawaii the happy hunting ground of geneticists. The fact that there is no social-discrimination against the offspring of mixed

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Blending of Races

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ancestry offers an opportunity for scientific observation of race mixture in Honolulu that is almost unparalleled.

According to a report made to the Hawaiian Academy of Science some 13,000 Caucasian-Hawaiians and 8,000 Asiatic-Hawaiians comprise seven per cent. of the total population of the Islands. The Chinese have been making small contributions to the general mixture for a generation but now the Japanese have begun to marry out of their own race in large numbers. Over 44 per cent. of the men of American and North European ancestry are said to be marrying women of races other than their own while the Portuguese and Filipinos follow suit. The general use of the English language and the steady building up of common manners and customs not the least of which are the movies and Ford cars are cited as contributing factors to the growing amalgamation.

The progeny of the Chinese-Hawaiian cross stands first among all hybrids in industry and self support, in Dr. Davenport's estimation. They have the well stabilized, docile and patient temperament of the Hawaiian combined with the intellectual capacity of the Chinese. In the Hawaiian-white unions the restless, ambitious and individualistic temperament of the Caucasian appears to come out on top.

The Filipino in Hawaii contains elements of Chinese, Japanese, Negrito and Caucasian, but the result of all this mixing does not seem to be particularly happy. The Filipino hybrid is over-emotional and weakly inhibited. Though they constitute only 10 per cent. of the population, they are responsible for over 42 per cent. of the murders and 48 per cent. of the sex offences. Scientists suggest that the secret of Filipino ineffectiveness may lie in the conflict of the various racial temperaments.

The Eurasian offspring of Hindus and Europeans stand India's devastating climate better than their white parents but in general have the reputation of being dishonest, lazy and lacking in perseverance. They refuse frequently to learn the native language and in consequence are less useful in clerical positions than the more intelligent of the natives themselves.

In the Dutch East Indies, on the other hand, children of Dutch-Javanese parentage are noted for their beauty and intelligence. In the past girls of this blended ancestry have been sought upon occasion for the harem of the Sultan of Java. In Sumatra the sons of Europeans and native women that have been trained in Europe have filled administrative positions with distinction.

Descendants from Spanish-Indian crosses on the west coast of South America are among the leaders of that continent today. Portuguese mulattoes in Brazil, however, show great variability both physically and mentally. They do not have good muscular development and are subject to tuberculosis but they are habitually bold, courageous and intelligent. Many display a bent for politics while others go in for literary and scientific pursuits. In Brazil the door of opportunity is open to all men of talent and ability and some of the highest political offices in the country are held down by able mulattoes.

The negro-white hybrids of the United States are apparently more subject to venereal disease and tuberculosis than the full-blooded negro. This condition may be due to social rather than hereditary factors, however, from the facts that they come more in contact with the whites and that they live in unsanitary city houses rather than in the open country. The full black is easily satisfied and loyal to his employer but the mulatto is

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Blending of Races

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dissatisfied and often rebellious. This difference is believed to be caused by the disharmony of the different temperaments of the two races.

Lapp-Norwegian and Lapp-Swedish crosses are pretty much of a failure. The parent races are physically dissimilar and the resulting progeny fall ready victims to tuberculosis and strong drink, and have a tendency toward psychic disturbances and criminal behavior. People with a Lapp-Swedish-Finn ancestry, however, have tall bodies and narrow elongated faces. This length of limb and physiognomy does not always show up in the first generation but is



THE GRANDMOTHER OF THIS HYBRID might be called the founder of a new race. A spotted negro-white hybrid herself, seventeen spotted and sixteen normal colored descendants are down to her credit, according to the records of the American Genetics Association. All these spotted hybrids are white in front. Note how the white skin grows white hair

apparent farther down in the family tree. The royal family of Sweden, the tall rulers of one of the tallest races in the world, show this lengthy result of much intermarriage with other strains.

Unhappily in the past most race mixing has come about between the worst elements, social and otherwise, of both races. There is little likelihood of the offspring of the riff-raff of Europe and the easy virtue of a primitive tribe being a credit to either parental strain. Likewise when a cross occurs between races that are physically and mentally widely different, the children are bound to suffer from the internal war of temperaments.

Looking at the experiments in race crossing that have been performed in the course of the world's progress it is evident that interbreeding is not always bad. When the bride and groom-to-be are of sound and healthy stock their progeny are likely to be encouraging products. It is particularly important that the physical and temperamental differences between the two races shall not be too wide. This compatability of racial temperaments and a healthy racial history are just as essential in the joining of races as in the marriage of individuals.

And looking into the future, it may be that out of the great earth melting pot there will emerge during the course of milleniums new races, approaching perhaps in brain or brawn the super-men imagined by the poets and the idealists.

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Michigan has the longest coast line of any state.

Gasoline tax receipts indicate that motorists are using more gasoline this year than last.

A gift by a former mayor of Minneapolis is providing the city with a hospital for crippled children.

Fishermen recently captured a 20,000 pound whale after struggling with it four days in a net.

The Denver City Park Zoo is said to have the finest collection of North American animals in existence.

It has been proposed that the famous old Coast Guard cutter, the *Bear*, be turned into an Arctic museum.

Bobbed Hair in Rome

Hairdressers must have been as highly skilled and as well remunerated in ancient Rome as members of that prosperous clan are today, judging by the elaborate coiffeurs of Roman empresses shown in a series of portrait busts that have just appeared in *Art and Archæology*, the journal of the Archæological Society of Washington.

The styles of coiffeur represented in the period from 50 B. C. to 300 A. D. ranged from an ultra-modern looking bob of tight thick curls to an elaborate coronet arrangement of twists and braids that could hardly have all grown on the lady's own head, according to Miss Ernestine F. Leon, who is conducting this research on the tonsorial art of antiquity.

Curling irons and pomade jars found at Pompeii bear testimony that many lovely Romans did not have naturally curly hair, while the headquarters of a thriving false hair trade, it is known from several references in Latin literature, was located at the Portico Phillipus in the Campus Martius at Rome.

Unfortunately there is no authentic portrait bust of Cleopatra. The only concrete notion posterity can get of the famous Egyptian's charms comes from coins struck with her image during her reign. The coins do not bear the profile of any ravishing beauty but as Miss Leon points out this may be due partly to the deficiency of the minter's art and partly to the fact that the queen had more fascination of manner than regularity of features. According to this imperfect record, Cleopatra had a thin face with heavy features and an aquiline nose. Her luxuriant locks were combed forward and divided into seven strands, twisted each into a separate roll and drawn back over the top and sides of the head to the nape of the neck. Here the ends were fastened into a small hard knot tied with a fillet the ends of which were left hanging down loose.

The bust of Livia, the wife of Augustus Caesar, who was about sixteen years younger than Cleopatra, shows a classical simplicity in hairdressing that is almost severe when compared to her more dashing contemporary.

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