

ANTHROPOLOGY

Mixing of Races Brought Greatness to Nations

Dr. Boas, A.A.A.S. President and Eminent Anthropologist, Defends Theory of Melting-Pot Before Pasadena Meeting

RACIAL MIXTURES are not the unmitigated evil imagined by many propagandists and politicians. They may, on the contrary, be the source of great national vigor and progress, with degeneration setting in only when a given group has closed its gates, stabilized itself, and "settled down."

This is, in essence, a major thesis defended before the opening session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Pasadena, by its president, Prof. Franz Boas of Columbia University, one of the foremost anthropologists in the world.

Taking a whole-world and an all-time view, Prof. Boas pointed out striking instances of the beneficent working of the "melting-pot" process.

Race Mixtures of History

"Let us recall to our minds the migrations that occurred in early times in Europe," he said, "when the Kelts of Western Europe swept over Italy and eastward to Asia Minor, when the Germanic tribes migrated from the Black Sea westward into Italy, Spain and even into North Africa; when the Slavs expanded northwestward over Russia, and southward into the Balkan Peninsula; when the Moors held a large part of Spain, when Roman and Greek slaves disappeared in the general population, and when Roman colonization affected a large part of the Mediterranean area. It is interesting to note that Spain's greatness followed the period of greatest race mixture, that its decline set in when the population became stable and immigrations stopped. This might give us pause when we speak about the dangers of the intermingling of European types. What is happening in America now is the repetition on a larger scale and in a shorter time of what happened in Europe during the centuries when the people of north Europe were not yet firmly attached to the soil."

The present leaders in European life and culture, Prof. Boas pointed out, are already products of the melting pot.

"The high nobility of all parts of

Europe can be shown to be of very mixed origin," he reminded his audience. "French, German, and Italian urban populations are derived from all the distinct European types. It would be difficult to show that any degeneracy that may exist among them is due to an evil effect of intermating.

Results of Inbreeding

"Biological degeneracy is found rather in small districts of intense inbreeding. Here again it is not so much a question of type, but rather that of the presence of pathological conditions in the family strains, for we know of many perfectly healthy and vigorous intensely inbred communities. We find these among the Eskimo and also among many primitive tribes among whom cousin marriages are prescribed by custom.

"These remarks do not touch upon the problem of the effect of intermarriages upon bodily form, health and vigor of crosses between races that are biologically more distinct than the types of Europe. It is not quite easy to give absolutely conclusive evidence in regard

to this question. Judging merely on the basis of anatomical features and health conditions of mixed populations there does not seem to be any reason to assume unfavorable results, either in the first or in later generations of offspring."

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PSYCHIATRY

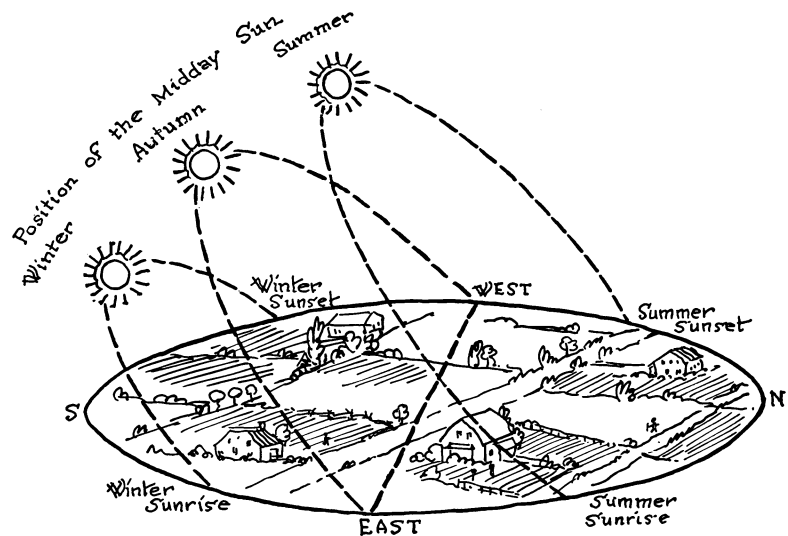
Difficulty in Birth May Cause Dullness

MANY DULL school children may trace the origin of their difficulty to the painful hour of their birth. For a definite relation exists between difficulty in labor and dull or low normal intelligence, it is indicated by a study of more than 20,000 persons made by Dr. Neil A. Dayton, director of research of the Massachusetts State Department of Mental Diseases, Boston. However, he found no significant relation between birth difficulties and the lower grades of mental deficiency.

"The negative finding of a lack of association between abnormal labor and the great bulk of cases of mental deficiency is of little moment in comparison with the positive finding of an association between abnormal labor and the dull normal or low normal groupings," Dr. Dayton commented.

"The far-reaching significance of the latter finding lies in the fact that the bulk of our population lies in these higher levels of intelligence."

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THE SUN'S PATHS ACROSS THE SKY

This diagram shows how the sun rises higher in the sky, and is above the horizon longer, at the summer solstice than at other times of year. It reaches this position this year on June 22 at 4:28 a. m., Eastern Standard Time

