

ANTHROPOLOGY

Refill German Science Gap

Two U. S. books on anthropological subjects that would have been burned as heretical by the Nazis have been translated into German.

► TWO AMERICAN books that Hitler would certainly have burned, had he known about them, have been translated into German and will soon be published by the firm of Sebastian Lux, of Murnau, a suburb of Munich. They are both on anthropological subjects, and they contain statements that by Nazi criteria could only have been judged as the rankest heresies.

One of the books is *Apes, Giants and Man* (Chicago University Press), by Dr. Franz Weidenreich, German-born but now an American citizen. Dr. Weidenreich had for years been conducting distinguished research on Peking Man in China, when he found it necessary to get out in a hurry to escape capture and internment by the Japanese invaders. He is now at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

In his book he says: "As far as head index is concerned, the central European population is not longheaded and not Nordic . . . If the desirable mental qualities are really bound to longheads, and the undesirable ones to roundheads, as has been surmised, the good qualities should be present in only a very small percentage of the central European population. The overwhelming majority would have only bad qualities."

He also presents, side by side, profile pictures of the death mask of that ultra-Nordic, Frederick the Great of Prussia, and of the mummified head of the ancient Egyptian pharaoh, Rameses the Great, a member of the "Hamitic" race. They look enough alike to be at least cousins; the noses are especially similar.

The second book is *Mankind So Far* (Doubleday, Doran), by native-born Prof. William Howells of the University of Wisconsin. Here are some of the things he says, that would surely have made Nazi hair stand on end:

Of blood: "The blood of all men is precisely the same substance, and if you, a white American, were filled to bursting with transfusions of the blood of other races there would still be no chance that your skin would darken (or that of your children), or that you would start to speak Choctaw."

Of Nordics: "The traditional belief, and the one on which the writers on Nordic or 'Aryan' supremacy banked, was that the Nordics arose in a particular place as a unified, unmixed race, endowed by Providence with yellow hair and a knowledge of what is good for other people, and that all of European blondness can be traced back to them. There seems to be little back of the idea in actuality,"

Of Jews: "It is not easy to say anything anthropologically sound about them . . . From what I have said already it should be plain that they cannot be of any extraordinary origin, and can only be descended from Mediterraneans of the various Neolithic types."

Herr Lux is also responsible for the publication of a considerable number of books by German authors on a variety of scientific subjects, mostly in small pocket format, and for a monthly popular science magazine titled *Orion*. These publications are designed to refill, as rapidly as possible, the terrible gap left in general scientific education in Germany by the interference of the Nazis.

Appropriately, the chief editor of the firm, Dr. Erich Lasswitz, is a man whom the Nazis persecuted. After a quarter-century as editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, leading liberal daily of pre-Nazi times, he was thrown out of his job by Goebbels, and forced to live in retirement until liberated by American troops in 1945.

The magazine, *Orion*, is his brain-child. With the help of an 18-year-old niece, he worked up material for the first two issues in a kitchen used at the same time by his wife and another woman, because that was the only warm room in the house. Beginning thus away back of scratch, he has in two years brought *Orion's* circulation up to 55,000—and has a waiting list that will double that figure if he can ever get enough paper.

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MEDICINE

High-Fat Diets Declared Bad for Heart Patients

► WARNING against a high-fat diet for patients with heart disease was sounded by Dr. Milton Plotz of Brooklyn at the meeting in Chicago of the American Medical Association. Deaths of 10 heart patients within seven months after being put on a high-fat diet, and much worse heart symptoms in 12 of another group of 17 within three months after being put on a high-fat diet, were cited by Dr. Plotz.

The high-fat diets had been given most of the patients as part of standard treatment for stomach ulcers. One of them was given the diet to "build him up." Ulcer patients, who have heart disease, Dr. Plotz warned, should be given frequent feedings low in fat.

Science News Letter, July 10, 1948



ULTRA-HIGH SPEED STUDY—This unusual picture shows what happened when a gas turbine engine was spun at 73,285 revolutions per minute. A blade was thrown. It can be seen at the upper right as it crashed into a copper protecting screen and automatically tripped a flash light to take its own photograph in one five-millionths of a second.