

GENETICS

No White Race in Future

With or without atomic war the white race as we know it will be dissolved in the world's melting pot. The future citizen of the world will be largely Asiatic in descent.

➤ THE white race will be wiped out in the future, whether or not an atomic war destroys civilization.

This is the prediction of Prof William C. Boyd, anthropologist of Boston University, made in a new book, *GENETICS AND THE RACES OF MAN* (Little, Brown) published in Boston.

If there should be an atomic war and it did not make the whole earth uninhabitable, it would leave the human species to be perpetuated mostly by the populations of regions not reached by modern weapons. These might include the aborigines of the Australian desert, the Eskimo and others in the polar regions and the natives of central Africa, Prof. Boyd points out.

However, Prof. Boyd believes it more constructive to work on the assumption that atomic war will somehow be avoided.

"Let us suppose, for the sake of argument," he writes, "that organized civilization will avoid destroying itself by the use of atomic bombs, radioactive dust, bacteriological warfare, poison gas, or anything similar, and that the same racial groups which we have at present will continue to contribute to the racial picture in the future."

In that case, the future citizen of the world state will be largely Asiatic by descent, with the Africans, Americans and Europeans coming in a very bad second.

There will be a considerable degree of miscegenation, he predicts, and eventually much less difference between men in different parts of the world, especially in regard to skin color and types of face and hair. How straight versus kinky hair will make out is hard to predict. But this is how Prof. Boyd pictures the man of the future:

He will have dark brown eyes, a brown skin and straight or perhaps slightly wavy hair. He will be a low-brow, with head very short in relation to width.

Prof. Boyd has little hope for the success of plans to "improve" human stock. In the first place, it would be necessary to decide what human traits are good and which traits are better than others.

"It is not easy to say with confidence that any of the varieties of ability are bad, and others are good.

"There are a few human genes which it would undoubtedly be desirable to eliminate, if this could be done without causing more suffering in the process of elimination than their presence among us causes now," he states.

But eliminating a gene is not always easy. If it is dominant, then the problem is relatively simple. Sterilization of all affected

persons or the voluntary avoidance of reproduction of offspring by them would wipe out a dominant trait in a single generation.

Unfortunately, however, most of the human genes known to be undesirable are recessive and in this case sterilization would act very slowly. Sterilization of all albinos, for example, would only reduce the incidence of the gene to half in a period of time equal to the entire Christian era.

"For the time being, at least," Prof. Boyd concludes, "we shall do much better to devote our energies to making better education available to those who already possess genes making them capable of benefiting from it, and to attempt to improve the mutual understanding and relationship of various groups of men who at present consider themselves racially or culturally distinct."

Prof. Boyd suggests that at present it would be much more scientific to classify human beings into races on the basis of blood groups rather than on such superficial characters as skin color, height or hair texture. This scheme would divide the world into six races: An early European group, represented today only by their sole

survivors, the Basques; a European (Caucasoid) group; African (Negroid) group; Asiatic (Mongoloid) group; American Indian and Australoid groups.

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ZOOLOGY

Rare Guadalupe Fur Seal On San Nicolas Island

➤ A RARE Guadalupe fur seal, once slaughtered in great numbers but thought recently to be extinct, has been reported on San Nicolas Island off the southern California coast.

A single male, five and one half feet long weighing an estimated 300 pounds, was discovered by Dr. George A. Bartholomew, University of California at Los Angeles zoologist.

The last known breeding ground of this species of fur seal, according to Dr. Bartholomew, was the island of Guadalupe in Mexican waters. He recently spent two weeks on this island, however, without finding any trace of the Guadalupe fur seal.

But when he visited San Nicolas Island, 400 miles north, the single male was discovered, identified and photographed.

Dr. Bartholomew believes that this male is a member of a new colony that has begun to propagate on San Nicolas or some other Channel Island off the southern California coast.

It may, however, be the last surviving individual of the Guadalupe colony.

Science News Letter, October 7, 1950



ECLIPSE SNAPS—Photographs of two phases of the moon's total eclipse the night of Sept. 25-26, the last total lunar eclipse visible from the United States until 1953. On the left the moon is just coming out of the total eclipse. The bright, shiny sliver of light is that part of the moon again illuminated by the sun. The other picture is of the moon almost clear of the earth's shadow. Both photographs were taken with the 26-inch telescope at the U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C.