

also established that the density decreased very slowly with distance from the center throughout the outer layer." He also

proposed that a large proportion of molecules is present in the atmosphere of these stars.

Science News Letter, January 18, 1941

NUTRITION

Nutrition a "Must" Item in Hemisphere Solidarity

Tropical American Diets Lack Calcium and Vitamin A But Advice To Drink Milk Would Be Impractical

FOOD and nutrition should be a "must" item for consideration in a program for Western Hemisphere solidarity, Dr. George R. Cowgill, associate professor of physiological chemistry at Yale University, declared in a De Lamar lecture at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Many of the dietaries in common use in tropical America are "far from satisfactory in several respects," Dr. Cowgill found from his own observations during two summers in Panama and other tropical American countries. Dr. Cowgill made his studies of the possibilities of nutritional research among the natives in Panama at the request of Dr. Herbert C. Clark, director of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory.

Tropical American diets lack calcium and vitamin A particularly, Dr. Cowgill found. Advice to consume more milk to make up the calcium deficiency would be impractical, he pointed out, because a dairy industry is practically non-existent except in particular sections of tropical America.

The Mexican Indians use lime in removing the bran layer from the corn kernel and this results in addition of calcium to the final edible product, probably accounting partly for the splendid condition of the teeth seen in most of these people. Other tropical Americans might be helped to get more calcium in their diets by development of other similar uses for lime, Dr. Cowgill suggested.

Better returns on American capital invested in development of natural resources in tropical America are to be had from improvement, through food and other means, of the health of the local tropical laborers, Dr. Cowgill pointed out.

"If the purely humanitarian consideration of improvement in the health of all groups of people, regardless of locality, race, and other considerations, does not constitute sufficient reason for becoming interested in nutritional problems of tropical America," he said, "then I offer the one just stated which is related definitely to an enlightened self-interest and a matter of dollars and cents."

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to deteriorate, Prof. Hooton sharply warns.

Machines and charity get special blame from this critic of man's defects, who says that they cause this atrophy by making mankind idle. As he puts it, they "have made man into something less respectable than an ape through sheer atrophy of function."

Warfare is seen as another force dragging man down, and medical science is taken to task for keeping alive millions of diseased and disabled without sufficient knowledge to cure them.

Inferior human stuff lacking in moral stamina and intelligence—so runs this anthropologist's terrible description of the generation in Europe born after the great and weakening World War, and now struggling in coils of another war.

Pathologically suggestible is another term applied to post-war generations. This trait of willingness to believe without thinking is so sweeping Germany that Prof. Hooton says the whole

ANTHROPOLOGY

Study of Apes Points Way Towards Better Human Beings

HERE is a prescription for our ailing planet, wracked with wars and woes:

"What this world needs is better human beings: man, woman, and child, in every stratum of its population and in every country."

The doctor is Prof. Earnest A. Hooton, Harvard University specialist in anthropology, science of man.

"The world chaos of today is due to the debased intelligence of the mass of 'civilized' men and to nothing else."

So Prof. Hooton diagnoses the trouble in a new book of lecture essays provocatively titled, "Why Men Behave Like Apes, and Vice Versa" (*Reviewed SNL, this issue*).

Calling degenerate behavior the rule, not the exception, among human beings, this anthropologist says that man's biological fiber has rotted by indolence and inertia. If human beings did not stand on two feet, they would lose their erect posture, and the same principle of disuse can cause mental and physical faculties



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