

BIOLOGY

Biological Purge Necessary For Mankind's Salvation

Anthropologist Points Out That Ape Has Stronger Voice Than Opera Singer; Speech No Great Gift

ASIT-DOWN reproductive strike of the busy breeders among the morons, criminals, and social ineffectuals of our population, is advocated by Prof. Earnest A. Hooton, Harvard anthropologist, in a new book "Apes, Men and Morons" (Putnam).

"A biological purge is the essential prerequisite for a social and a spiritual salvation," Dr. Hooton writes. "We must stop trying to cure malignant biological growths with patent sociological nostrums. The emergency demands a surgical operation."

Advising human beings to take a realistic look at themselves, Prof. Hooton contends that man is not a very efficient member of the animal kingdom.

Trying to imagine how an ape would regard a man, Prof. Hooton observes that apes have more powerful voices than any singer, and "an anthropoid ape would regard a Metropolitan opera star as next-door to dumb." Even our vaunted achievement of speech might be rated more destructive than beneficial, since it creates more barriers than bridges for understanding. As for gadgets, man is supremely good at them, but his judgment in using them is often bad.

Fed Up

Prof. Hooton doubts the theory that man's tree-dwelling ape-like ancestor came down from trees and stood on his hind legs because changing climate caused the trees to shrivel away. Isn't it more likely, asks Prof. Hooton, that some intrepid adventurer got fed up with a diet of fruits and berries and took a chance on the ground where he could quest for ampler supplies of vitamins A, B, C, D, and E?

Within the past million years, actual bones of man are available, in odds and ends, to show what man was like. Prof. Hooton finds early Stone Age individuals "doubtless worthy persons but certainly not prepossessing."

Of England's oldest known human remains, believed to be those of a woman, he says, she "may have been a female with a brain as capacious as Lady As-

tor or of any other American female who has played a dominant part in the affairs of the British Empire." But he adds that Dame Eoanthropus "seems to have had a face like a chimpanzee—no chin at all, and projecting tusk-like canine teeth; hers was no countenance for which a king would renounce his throne."

The anthropologist's serious purpose

BIOCHEMISTRY

Growth No Proof of Living; Chemicals Can Grow, Too

JUST because something grows, it is no proof that it is alive. Under proper conditions some non-living substances—such as protein molecules which cause filterable virus diseases—"possess the property of forming themselves."

Exploring the borderlands of life itself in the submicroscopic world, Dr. John H. Northrop of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research laboratories at Princeton, N. J., made known these new findings in delivering the Chandler Lecture at Columbia University. He has obtained a chemical substance—a nucleoprotein—that appears to be the bacteriophage, the famous "bacteria eater" discovered over a decade ago with high hopes that it would prove useful in fighting disease.

The strange twixt-and-between substances, believed previously to be as alive as better-known bacteria, are probably enzymes, in the same classes with pepsin, trypsin and other more familiar substances that play essential roles in digestion and other bodily functions.

Dr. Northrop was presented the prized Chandler medal of Columbia University for his "fundamental discoveries concerning bacteria, the constitution of the proteins, and the chemistry of the digestion." The medal was founded in 1910 to honor Charles Frederick Chandler, called father of the American Chemical

is to call attention to man's indifference to his biological fate and future. Looking the whole human species over, he thinks it needs improvement, and it can improve itself.

"Now that we have concluded our little sixty million year saunter," he writes, "in which we started out with a tree shrew and ended up with Mrs. Simpson, or what have you, we are confronted with the more important task of inquiring how we have managed to get so far and where we go from here."

He advocates specifically that young people be taught the importance of a code of biological ethics.

"The only valid reason for trying to improve the biological status of man," Prof. Hooton declares, "is that he be made a better animal—more honest, more unselfish, more decent and considerate in his human relations."

Science News Letter, November 6, 1937

Society who for many years directed chemistry teaching at Columbia University. Dr. Northrop is the sixteenth scientist to receive this award.

The isolation and crystallization of the proteolytic or digestive enzymes, pepsin, trypsin, chymo-trypsin and carboxypeptidase has been accomplished. And Dr. Northrop has also isolated and crystallized the inactive precursors of pepsin, trypsin and chymo-trypsin and determined how they can be converted by slight chemical changes into the active enzyme.

By similar procedures the isolation and crystallization of the tobacco mosaic virus protein, was accomplished by Dr. W. M. Stanley, also of the Rockefeller Institute, which is taken to indicate that virus diseases are chemical in origin.

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● RADIO

November 11, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.

WIVES BY THE DOZEN—IN AFRICA—
Rev. Edward Ward of the Catholic
University of America.

November 18, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.

ROMANCE OF TUNG OIL—C. C. Con-
cannon, Chief of the Chemical Division
of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and
Domestic Commerce.

In the Science Service series of radio dis-
cussions led by Watson Davis, Director,
over the Columbia Broadcasting System.