

ling with the waves of northern populations. Thus, an investigation based on the classical tools of anthropometry might be of some value in tracing the history of this population. A study was made of 388 families collected from a village in the district of Ferrara. Various anthropometric measurements were made. The differences in the results with sex and age might be due to the interference of some physiological factor; on the other hand it is conceivable that the populations investigated might not be an entirely homogeneous mixture. In one part there might be a tendency to have a high incidence of thalassaemia, greater stature and lower weight and in the other part these conditions could be reversed. Such a state of affairs would give an association of these characteristics which would be statistical in origin, not genetical or physiological.

*Summary:* Thalassaemia has some effect on the pattern of body measurements, mainly weight and stature, but more extensive study is required. In the population concerned there is little hope of getting any definite answer regarding its ethnic derivation by studying the distribution of the classical anthropometrical characters because they are affected by thalassaemia. It is likely, therefore, that the often reported findings that thalassaemic populations show peculiar facial characteristics is not to be interpreted as a sign of racial intermixture. This study is an example of how Mendelian genetics and classical anthropometry might give a more definite answer.

*Distribution of Serum Haptoglobin types in some Italian Populations.* H. Harris, et al. The application of physico-chemical techniques recently developed, such as Smithies' discovery of the inherited difference in the formation of certain plasma proteins, might now enable them to be used in the study of populations. Smithies found that three qualitatively different types of protein pattern could be recognised when plasma was examined. The differences are due to the behaviour of a group of proteins which have been called haptoglobins. The relative frequencies of haptoglobin were discovered in

diverse localities in Italy and these frequencies were found to be not appreciably different from one another, or from European populations. When a more complete pattern of their frequency distribution has been built up the results will be of considerable importance and they will be of some interest when considered from the viewpoint of the anthropologist.

*General Discussion* p. 236. The positive conclusion which emerges is that both archaeologist and geneticist have material to furnish to the other side which may eventually be useful. This Symposium has been extremely useful in showing something of the methods and objectives of the various specialized studies and the limitations of each. However, it is premature to look for historical results.

It was suggested that the information gathered together should be used and communicated to the authorities in view of the planning of future programmes. Furthermore, it was pointed out that it would be logical to obtain material from the alleged original home of the Etruscans, Asia Minor, for use for comparative purposes with the data about the Etruscans obtained in Italy. The Appendices show some broad outlines for any kind of archaeological work carried out anywhere and a memorandum on the osteometric requirements relating to the study of skeletal remains.

Mr. Cook summarized the value of the exchange of information in the various fields of study and added that the test of the meeting will come in the next 2-3 years as material is produced and conclusions drawn from it.

E. POND

JULIUS BAUER, *Der kranke Mensch als biologische Einheit*, 134 Seiten, 5 Abbildungen, 8°, kartoniert DM 16.80 1958 Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart.

L'aspirazione più elevata di ogni medico è quella di poter considerare il malato non come un essere costituito da organi, sistemi e apparati da affrontare singolarmente di fronte ad un avvenimento patologico, ma come una unità

in cui le diverse funzioni si integrano e si completano secondo uno schema proprio all'individuo che risale; però, ad un più ampio piano generale, familiare, razziale e della specie.

Julius Bauer è un Autore del concetto olistico della medicina e fonda il principio basilare di tale concetto sulla costituzione genetica. « Der kranke Mensch als biologische Einheit », — La Persona dietro la Malattia — è un volume pubblicato dal Georg Thieme Verlag nel 1958 in cui l'A. cerca di condensare il suo intento di riportare ad una medicina più « profonda » lo studio dell'uomo e delle sue malattie.

Una sicura cultura medica e scientifica gli permette di sintetizzare in sette capitoli e in 134 pagine quanto di più recente si conosce sia sulla genetica umana generale (cap. 2° e 3°), sia sulle malattie dipendenti da una genopatia vera (cap. 4°) come da una errata informazione

genica che conduce ad una inferiorità d'organo o di sistema (cap. 5°). Le parti integrate nel tutto sono discusse nel (cap. 6°) e la medicina psicologica nel (cap. 7°), questo è, forse, il capitolo più debole.

Una vera cultura umanistica pervade tale materia — a volte arida e basata su formule e cifre — di un calore che dà alla lettura il piacere di chi sente che si parla di « noi » e non di malati e malattie.

Una bibliografia di 213 segnalazioni rimanda a più ampie informazioni sui diversi temi trattati, sia in campo genetico che medico e psicologico.

Il libro è da suggerire a tutti quei medici che, impastoiati dalle briglie unidirezionali della propria specializzazione, vogliano per un attimo gettare uno sguardo panoramico su orizzonti più vasti.

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