

Science Notes

BY WILLIAM G. HAYNES.

Had the "Slingsby case" been tried in less stirring times it certainly would have attracted a greater share of public attention, particularly from those who are interested in the inheritance of physical characters. Mr. Justice Hargrave Dean recognized a close degree of resemblance between the boy defendant and his father, Mr. Charles Slingsby, particularly in the case of the lower jaw; Sir George Frampton detected a likeness between the ears of the boy and his mother. On the day on which the learned judge gave his judgment a well-known anthropologist, an anatomist famous for his accuracy, descended in a lift with two men and a boy, all three of whom stared stolidly at the advertisement on the wall. One of the men was short and dark, the other fair and of medium height. The expert at once assigned the little boy as the son of the fair man from their close resemblance. As the lift gates swung open the boy took the dark man by the hand, called him "dad," while the fair man went his own separate way. In telling us his experience he adds: "Another case of mis-identification came under my notice on the evening of the same day. An intelligent and experienced lady called on a friend who took her up to the nursery to see the latest born. The visitor found two nurses and two babies, and exclaimed, 'Well I need not ask which it is; this one is your image.' She then selected the wrong child." From such cases one must conclude that general resemblances may prove misleading. But it is otherwise with particular features, such as the Hapsburg lip. Medical men are well aware of such features; a nose, an eye, or an ear may have such a pronounced shape that a family identification may be made with certainty. Individuals with pronounced features are in the minority. There is no question that such features may be and are inherited. In many instances the characteristic form is not apparent in the young; it becomes fully developed after adolescence, and this is especially true in the case of the nose, and is also the case with the lower jaw. The boy defendant is four years of age; in the next sixteen years his jaw will be remodelled over and over again to make room for the permanent molar teeth, the teeth which will replace his milk set, and to fit the growth of the upper jaw; it would be at maturity we should expect a real, not an apparent, resemblance of the paternal form of jaw to appear. The ear offers a more certain means of identification of likeness, but very few men have studied this complex structure so closely as to be in a position to offer an expert opinion as to degree of likeness. In the photographs which have been published of the parties in the Slingsby case an expert has little difficulty in recognizing what was apparently regarded as a striking feature of the "Slingsby" ear. The resemblance lies in the degree to which the hinder border of the ear is folded over so as to form a welt. It is well known that the folding of ear margin is a result of retrogression; the more the border is folded over, the greater is the degree of developmental retrogression. There is no folding of the border of the ear in the more primitive apes; in some of the higher apes, especially in the orang, there is a high degree of infolding, for the ear of the orang is more retrograde than

that of most human races. A considerable degree of infolding of the ear is so common that an anthropologist would give it only a slight value in working out resemblances. Sir George Frampton's method of observation we do not know, but we must admit that sculptors have certainly a right to express an opinion. It was Thomas Woolner who drew Darwin's attention to the presence of a nodule on the welt of the human ear which the great evolutionist recognized as a remnant of the ancient pointed tip. That all parties concerned in the Slingsby case should show a trace of the ancient tip is not a matter for surprise; the ear is exceptional which shows no sign of this ancient mark. —Scientific American Supplement.

MOLASSES ROADS.

Molasses is now a building material. Several tests have proved its value for this purpose. The molasses referred to is not the edible kind, but the residue left after boiling it out. This has been found to supply a powerful binder for crushed stone and gravel used as a foundation for concrete in both building and roadmaking.

The molasses which has been used for the tests is of the Cuban variety, a coarse by-product of sugar which was formerly dumped into the river. For several years it has been imported into this country for various purposes. It has been used, for example, to supply the fat-producing element in several kinds of manufactured stock food. Its value in road building has been tested in Alabama and several other southern states. —Washington Post.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING.

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the association will be under the same officers. Oswald Garrison Villard, first vice president and treasurer, is compelled to give up the treasurer-ship because of his continued absence in Washington. The secretary, Miss Mary Childs Nerney, retires to accept a position elsewhere. Other officers will remain.

American mills use 5,000,000 bales of cotton yearly. Negro labor is the chief factor in the production of cotton.

"NATURE AND SOME SOCIOLOGISTS."

(Continued from first page.)

the "seeds of time" are, we do not know; but we take it that this statement is made to heighten and strengthen the "barrier" referred to in the first statement.

What is the barrier to which Mr. Lindley makes such oracular reference? Does he mean that there is an immutable law of nature which forbids white and black people living in the same block? If that were true it would be entirely unnecessary to enact city ordinances on the subject; it requires no legislative acts to keep terrapins from living up in the trees with the squirrels. Does he mean that there is a barrier fixed by nature which bars the black man from participating in the higher cultural life? The general progress of the whole race toward all that culture means, the marked advancement of so many thousands, and the possession of the highest culture by so many individuals absolutely disproves any such theory. Or does Mr. Lindley mean that there is a barrier fixed by nature between whites and blacks, such as there is between a higher and lower order of animals, which stands in the way of physical union between the races? Then we should like to have him account for the presence of the three or four million people of mixed blood in this country. Perhaps, our sociological friend's theory is that physical union between the races is possible, but is a violation of the laws of nature; in fact, a sort of crime of bestiality. This is a common theory and much preached by a certain class of "students of sociology." If this were true, the offsprings of such a union would be monstrosities or degenerates. This we know is not so. Even the milder and quite familiar charge that the product of such a union is physically, mentally and morally inferior to both parent races will not stand the most cursory study of the condition of people of mixed blood; to say nothing of the mention of such names as Dumas, Pushkin, Frederick Douglas and Booker T. Washington.

Now, the point we are driving at lies beyond the question of either segregation or amalgamation considered within their ordinary limits. We are driving at these pseudo-scientific theories which darkly hint at the existence of some mysterious, eternal bar-sinister which shuts the Negro off from the rest of humanity; a thing which no anatomist or chemist or psychologist has yet been able to find. It has been demonstrated and is continually being demonstrated that a normal black man, given the same environment and opportunities, will develop physically, mentally and ethically the same as any other man. It has also been demonstrated and is continually being demonstrated that there is no natural physical aversion between the Negro and other races; in fact, just the opposite is true. And this is true not only of mere animal attraction, but also of the higher and purer affections. Many a white child has loved the broad bosom of its black mammy better than it did the arms of its own mother. Where, then, is this aversion established by nature and sanctioned by God? Prejudice against the Negro is a matter of training and education.

Still, in spite of their absurdity, such theories as the one set forth by Mr. Lindley find many believers. Such a belief works a subtle injury to us which is more damaging than lynchings or other violent insults of prejudice, because its effect is to put us outside the human pale, to assign us to a place somewhere just this side of the most advanced apes.

Finally, let us say to Mr. Lindley and other such "students of sociology" that if colored people live together in the same sections or districts, they should do so for social or economic reasons or on account of their own preference, and not because they are forced by some legislative enactment. Especially they object to being herded off in compliance with any law of nature-faking which attempts to rule them out of the human race."

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