

Race and the Precipitin Test

CONCLUSIONS of some considerable interest to physical anthropologists and students of questions of race are drawn by Prof. V. Suk of the Anthropological Department of Masaryk University, Brno, from the results of work on racial immunity on the basis of the precipitin test (*Act. Soc. Sci. Nat. Moraviae*, 8, fasc. 4, sig. 5). The author's objective was the differentiation by biological experiments between micro- or meso-diacritical races and the fully established pan- or macro-diacritical races. The material for sera and anti-sera was derived from Eskimo, Kalmuk, Nordic (Slovakia and Bohemia), Baltic, Alpine (Czech), Gipsies and Jews. Four hundred and five experiments, with eight dilutions, thus giving more than three thousand precipitations, were made. Without going into details, it may be said that the highest degree of reaction was given by the compared Eskimo-Kalmuk groups, hence regarded as pan-diacritical and fully established races, and the lowest by Jew-Nordic. On the basis of his results, Prof. Suk enters into a discussion of racial types at some length, taking into account, in particular, the work of Keith, Parsons and of Ruggles Gates on Amerindian crosses in Canada. He offers the opinion that the various groups among Europeans are not fully established races, but inconstant variations in process of making, while the modern racial history of Europe shows no visible trend to develop types such as 'Nordic', 'Dinaric', 'Alpine', etc., into true races, but rather to form new groups, according to geographical distribution, such as 'English', 'North American', 'German', 'Italian', and so forth. It is regarded as doubtful if such groups will ever attain the status of true races. The present investigation seems to show that all these types are of one stock and that Europeans in general are a very old variation of the species *Homo*.

Walnut Production in England

SOME account of the steps that are being taken to promote and improve walnut production in England is given by J. B. Hammond in the annual report of the East Malling Research Station for 1932. As the outcome of a large and successful walnut survey and competition in 1929, propagation studies have been started with carefully selected trees from different parts of England. Material has also been collected from other countries, notably France and California, including scions from trees known to produce the 'burred' type of wood valuable for cabinet making. Up to the present, grafting has only proved successful if carried out under glass, a frame with bottom heat of 60°-70° F. being used, but the plants can be hardened off after three weeks and, if grafted in June, are ready to be planted out by the end of August. Nuts may be produced after 3-5 years. A good nut should contain at least 50 per cent oil, for if the value is lower the water content is correspondingly increased, which results in impaired flavour and a tendency to shrivel during storage. The methods of storage are of the first importance. Cold storage at 38° F. combined with

90 per cent humidity prove entirely satisfactory. If, however, a higher temperature is maintained, a fungicide is necessary. Common salt, preferably mixed with coco-nut fibre or sodium phosphate to take up the moisture absorbed from the atmosphere by the salt, may be safely used, and nuts placed in earthenware crocks in alternate layers with this salt-mixture keep in good condition until the following spring.

Report of the Empire Marketing Board

IT is encouraging to learn from the Report of the Empire Marketing Board for 1932-33 (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s.), that in spite of the economic depression during this period, twenty-four new records in the shipment of Empire products to Great Britain have been set up. Among the outstanding examples where the increase in the import has been nearly or even more than doubled are Australian eggs, Canadian tobacco, British West Indian bananas and New Zealand pears. Although a reduced vote has precluded any extension of its research programme, the Board has in general been able to maintain its grants, and a full account of the work in hand at the various institutes benefited is given in the report. Progress continues in the planning of joint programmes of research, and suggestions of special problems requiring investigations have been received from India and the Colonial Advisory Council of Agriculture and Animal Health during the past year. The market intelligence services have been continued and far-reaching developments in this direction are anticipated since the inauguration of an Empire broadcasting service at the invitation of the B.B.C. Considerable success has attended the Board's publicity activities, and both the number of films available and the public demand for them has been trebled during the year under review.

Exploration in the Gobi Desert

ATTENTION may be directed to an article by Dr. R. C. Andrews on "Exploration in the Gobi Desert" (*National Geographic Magazine*, June 1933) which recounts the work of the Central Asiatic Expedition under his leadership in various years between 1922 and 1930. The importance of the article lies in the fine pictorial record of the Gobi Desert and Inner Mongolia. The pictures illustrate the topography and anthropology but are of interest mainly in their relation to the extraordinary palaeontological discoveries, including a number of early mammals as well as the eggs of the dinosaur (see also p. 81 of this issue). Many of the pictures are colour photographs.

The Antarctic Continent

IN a lecture to the Royal Institution delivered on March 3 on the new polar province in the Antarctic, Sir Douglas Mawson, after pointing out the extent of the antarctic that has been placed under the administration of the Australian Commonwealth, outlined the most recent ideas with regard to the