

"New Negro" Neither White Nor Black, Says Scientist

CHICAGO.—A new racial type is half way between these two varying being produced by the melting pot of this country, according to Prof. Melville J. Herskovitz, white, of the Northwestern University.

Intermixture of white, Indian and black skinned races, he says, in less than a century has developed a type of Negro which is really no more Negroid than Caucasian. In such details as the color of the skin, the shape of the nose, the thickness of the lips and the size of the body and legs, the American Negro as such is distinct from his forebears.

Prof. Herskovitz's details on this subject are contained in a book, "The American Negro, A Study In Racial Crossing", in the course of publication by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York. The volume is expected to appear in February, the professor told the AFRO-AMERICAN.

Tentative conclusions as to the ultimate color of the American Negro were discussed by him in a paper published in the proceedings of the National Academy of Science for October, 1926.

New Physical Type

The fact that the American Negro is evolving a new physical type was first suggested by Prof. Herskovitz while a member of the department of Anthropology at Columbia University, and his conclusion was published in the Current History Magazine of September, 1926.

In that paper, the professor measured over 2,000 individuals, including public school children and adults in Harlem, New York, and Howard University, Washington.

He found that the American Negro, physically, averages about half way between the African Negro and the white European.

Width Of Nose

Taking nostril width, for example, he found that the American whites average 35.0; Africans 43.4; American Negroes' nostril width is about

half way between these two varying, from 39.9 to 41.3.

Comparisons In Stature

Discussing stature, Prof. Herskovitz found that the average colored American is 171.1 centimeters tall. White Americans are 174.3 centimeters tall and West Africans average about 169.0 centimeters tall.

He also found that the sitting height of the Africans is shorter than that of the European white man, which means that the legs of the Negro are longer.

Thickness Of Lips

Measuring lip thickness, Prof. Herskovitz found that the thickness of the African lip is 23.9 millimeters; of the whites, 18.0, and of the American Negro between 21.9 and 22.5.

80 Per Cent Of Mixed Blood

Contradicting the census reports of 1920 which declared that 15 per cent of American Negroes are mulattoes, or mixed, and that the rest are pure Negro. Prof. Herskovitz's figures show that only 20 per cent of the men from whom he had obtained information are without mixture and that the other 80 per cent are of mixed blood.

Howard University students, he found, were lighter than New York school children.

No Amalgamation

According to Prof. Herskovitz, we should not think of the American Negro as an African type in which there has been mixed a small amount of white blood, a mixture which is still continuing and that will continue long enough finally to achieve the absorption of the Negro into the white population.

His view is that we must think of this New Negro as a stabilized type in between the African and white American who has solved the business of living in the United States and who will press on in the American community as a full-fledged member of it.