

him by the American Rolling Mill Co. Now Dr. Cushman contends that this analysis, and hence the opinions based upon it, is untrustworthy because it represents but a single sample; because the sample was of early manufacture; because it does not represent the present product of the American Rolling Mill Co. He does not object to the analysis because it is wrong. And yet the firm in whose defence Dr. Cushman so valiantly struggles quotes on pages 8 and 9 of its booklet "Public Opinion on American Ingot Iron," copyrighted in 1912, and distributed to the public as late as last July, these very pages, 114 and 115, of Dr. Friend's book, on which are given in full this analysis and opinions based upon it. If it is ethical for Dr. Cushman or the American Rolling Mill Co. to take advantage of an error (for which it is responsible) in a scientific book, and to print this as advertising matter and to place before the public what is not true, it surely is not a breach of ethics for me to print in a scientific journal a correction of this error and to state what is true.

Why limit professional ethics to scientific book reviews?

WILLIAM H. WALKER

THE INHERITANCE OF ACQUIRED PIGMENTATION

THE brief article on "The Inheritance of Skin Color" in *SCIENCE* for August 2, by Dr. H. E. Jordan, of the University of Virginia, contains among other matters the following speculation:

The fact of the apparent histologic identity between brunette and mulatto skins; and the further fact that under protracted exposure to extremes of heat and sun the number of pigment granules is increased in white skin, indicates that pigmentation (dark skin) as evidenced in the negro is an instance of the inheritance of an acquired character. The least that makes a negro a negro is his dark skin. Life-guards in September are frequently almost as black. A negro is specifically such for mental perhaps more than for physical characteristics. . . .

Dr. Jordan certainly fares far afield in offering two opinions—(1) the transmission of an acquired character, (2) that a negro is

a negro more for his mental than his physical characters, against all of the verifiable facts and experiments now available.

Although the peculiar fact of negro pigmentation and its origin can not be experimentally tested, the experiment of increasing and decreasing pigmentation by segregation is open to all of us. The work so voluminously before us on rats, mice, guinea-pigs, cattle, poultry and other animals are one hundred per cent. against Dr. Jordan's unfounded speculation of pigmentation (in the negro or in a blue mouse) as an instance of the acquired character afterwards inherited. Segregation in the dark African jungles has all the experimental proof in its favor.

That the negro is specifically a negro "for mental perhaps more than for physical characteristics" is another opinion not supported by the verifiable facts. The kinky hair, thick lips, pigmentation, extensive genitalia and prepuce, nasal formation, weight of skull, length and thickness of bones, and the other physical peculiarities of the African are, to put it mildly, as much the biometrician's, the anthropologist's as the layman's method of diagnosing the negro from another race. I should like to learn of the mental differences.

It seems to me unnecessary to discuss Dr. Jordan's opinion that the Italians, Spanish and Anglo-Saxon brunettes "may owe their pigmentation to negroid ancestry."

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Theoretische Astronomie. Von W. KLINKERFUES. Dritte verbesserte und vermehrte Ausgabe, bearbeitet von Professor Dr. H. BUCHHOLZ. XXXVIII., 1067 u. 12 S. 4°. Mit 67 Abbild. In stark. Leinenband 50 M. Verlag von Friedr. Vieweg & Sohn in Braunschweig.

The first edition of Klinkerfues's "Theoretische Astronomie" appeared in the year 1870, shortly after the publication of the classical treatises of Watson and Oppolzer, and in the intervening years has been an indispensable source of information to those in-