

developmental patterns the American Negro is identical with other types of modern man. But these are observations made on the end results of growth as found in adults. The only meager documents of the growth pattern itself are found in those records provided by the Brush Foundation for the White House Conference on Child Health and Development in 1930, records which compare the growth patterns of Cleveland White and Negro children, children of American-born parents and of Sicilian-born parents.<sup>29</sup> Hopelessly inadequate though these samples are, they suggest that differences of pattern relate only to proportions and size of body frame-work, not to fundamental pattern of maturation. They bear out Cobb's summary derived from observation of the adult. In

the dispassionate consideration of plans for the promotion of human welfare there is but one test of validity. Do they contemplate a cultural system to which man is to adjust himself as best he can or are they the spontaneous outgrowth of the insistent yearnings of human nature, securely rooted in the biological characters of mankind. Our observations to-night point the way to an enchanting study of prime significance for social welfare in a field of work where few have trod and none has set a master furrow. They are but a rushlight in the stormy night of chaotic current social theory, but they illuminate, however feebly, the crucial fact that man's biological nature is so deeply ingrained that political or social schemes which overlook this fact will do so at their peril.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### HYDROGRAPHY IN THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY

ACCORDING to the London *Times*, it has been decided that the British Admiralty shall undertake the construction of a magnetic survey ship, which is urgently required to carry out magnetic observations at sea, and provision for commencing the work has been made. The construction of the ship is necessary to determine the secular change in magnetic variation at sea, and thus to provide accurate forecasts of the correction to be applied to the standard, *i.e.*, the magnetic compass, in all ships.

Up to 1929 these observations were made by a ship belonging to the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Unfortunately, this vessel was destroyed by fire in 1929, and the institution has decided not to replace her.

According to the *Times* it is of special importance to Great Britain, as the principal maritime nation of the world, that a vessel should be built to resume the work with the least possible delay.

During 1934 H.M. surveying ships have all been fully employed in making new surveys or resurveys as necessary, the number of ships employed being four at home and four abroad. Of the latter, one has been employed in the Far East, one on the coast of Siam, one in the Persian Gulf and Cyprus and one in the West Indies and on the coast of Labrador. The party left in Labrador during the winter of 1933-34 were reembarked by the *Challenger* in July last, having accomplished a considerable amount of work. Owing to more urgent requirements, the Labrador survey will not proceed for the present.

<sup>29</sup> T. W. Todd, "Growth and Development of the Skeleton," in "Growth and Development of the Child." Pt. II, "Anatomy and Physiology," pp. 26-130. Century Company, N. Y., 1933.

The tidal stream survey of the British Isles has been continued in collaboration with the French and Netherlands Governments; assistance has also been given by the Fishery Board for Scotland and the Northern Lighthouse Board. Satisfactory progress is being made, and data have been collected at some sixty stations during the year.

Further developments are taking place in both deep and shallow echo-sounding apparatus, which continue to give highly satisfactory results. The development of a boat set has enabled echo-sounding methods to be employed by the motor-boats of surveying ships, and areas to be surveyed can thus be covered in a much shorter time, since echo-sounding does not, as does the use of the sounding machine or the hand lead, involve the stopping of the boats. The development of visual recorders, which enable a trace to be made of the sea bottom, has also been considerably advanced.

### THE SECOND DOLAN EXPEDITION OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA

WORD has been received at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to the effect that the second Dolan expedition to West China and Eastern Tibet, led by Brooke Dolan, II, of Philadelphia, which was for several months completely cut off from mail and other ordinary means of communication, had rounded out its first year of exploration and collecting with much new and valuable scientific data and many specimens of rare and unusual birds and mammals for the study collection of the museum.

To secure necessary official permits for work in certain remote areas, Mr. Dolan left the main party and with two Tibetans journeyed from Jyekundo to Sin-ing, through the so-called "Never-never Land" of the nomad tribes who roam these high mountain sources