

### "ISOSENSITIVITY" INSTEAD OF "ISOIMMUNITY"

RECENT progress in the discovery and elucidation of immunologic differences in human blood has been materially aided by the prompt acceptance of new terms which it has been necessary to introduce. Those who would learn of the complicated inter-relationships of the Rh types of human blood and their clinical implications have thus been spared the confusion which would accompany the mastery of several synonyms to designate each new phenomenon. It is with reluctance, therefore, that I propose the replacement of a term which has already gained considerable usage.

The word "isoimmunity" has been employed to denote the development in man of antibodies which act against the agglutinogens in the erythrocytes of another person as a result of previous contact with the antigenic substances in the red cells, either by repeated transfusions or by pregnancy. The prefix *iso* has been accepted in this field to imply derivation from the same species. Immunologists have construed the word "immunity" to include any state in which antibodies have been developed as the result of exposure to antigens, regardless of whether the condition affords protection to the body or not. This represents an extension of the original meaning of the English word, which still carries with it, in non-technical language, the implication of protection, whereas "isoimmunity" is intended to apply to a state of vulnerability caused by the development of antibodies.

Experience in teaching medical students and physicians about isoimmunity has impressed me with the fact that this term is the source of much confusion because the false implication of protection still persists in the minds of some. I propose to substitute for "isoimmunity" the synonym "isosensitivity," and, for "isoimmunization," the term "isosensitization." The meaning of vulnerability is unmistakably conveyed to the clinician who is already familiar with the terms "sensitivity" and "sensitization" in the field of allergy and has no doubt about their significance to the patients.

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### THE GULF HAMMOCK FORMATION IN FLORIDA

FOR a long time it has been an axiom of Florida geology that nowhere within the State is there exposed any formation older than the Ocala limestone. Now it seems that this axiom, like so many others, must be abandoned.

Until recently the Avon Park formation<sup>1</sup> which directly underlies the Ocala limestone, has been known only from core borings and well cuttings, excellent material for work on the microfauna but of little or no value in studying the larger fossils. A short time ago the writer was lucky enough to find a number of fairly extensive outcrops of this formation scattered throughout an area of four hundred square miles in southern Levy and northern Citrus counties. The correlation of the outcrops with the subsurface Avon Park is proven by their microfauna, by similarity of lithology and by stratigraphical position beneath a thin limestone bed replete with characteristic echinoids, which bed in turn is known to underlie the Ocala limestone in core holes on the flanks of the Ocala uplift.

By most workers in Florida geology the Avon Park formation has been put in the Claiborne group, although it has been rather generally felt that the evidence for Claibornian age was not complete. Lately the opinion that the formation ought to be reassigned to the upper Eocene or Jackson group has been gaining ground. Several of the recently found outcrops are rich in molluscs and echinoids. Although the study of this fauna will not be easy since the molluscs occur as moulds and calcite pseudomorphs and the echinoids are difficult to remove from the hard matrix, nevertheless it is reasonable to hope that with patient work this fauna may yet provide means for a final determination of the age of the Avon Park formation.

Since subsurface formation names cease to be valid when surface exposures have been found, the name Avon Park will have to be dropped. To take its place the writer proposes the name Gulf Hammock formation from the town of Gulf Hammock in Levy County where there are several good exposures.

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## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

### AN OUTLINE OF POLITICO-GENETICS

*The Dice of Destiny. An Introduction to Human Heredity and Racial Variation.* By DAVID C. RIFE. Long's College Book Co., Columbus, Ohio, 1945. 163 pp. Price, \$1.75.

THE calamity of the Second World War has awakened in many scientists a sense of social responsibility. It is this awakening, no doubt, that has prompted

<sup>1</sup> Paul L. Applin and Esther R. Applin, *Bull. Am. Assoc. Petrol. Geol.*, 28: p. 1686, 1944.