general formula and evaluating or approximating the resulting definite integral by the usual methods of function theory. To this class belong, for example, the results of Sections 3.1 and 3.2 in Rice on the distribution of the values of the noise at various times, and those in Part IV on the average of various properties of the response of nonlinear devices to Gaussian noise. Indeed, the fundamental formula of the "correlation function method" (4.07, p. 132), ascribed to Van Vleck and North (1943) with references to Fowler and Rice (1942) and Fränz (1941), is Wiener's formula for the case of a function of two random functions.

It is, of course, true that much of this recent work has constituted a real advance. One need only cite the important work of Kac on zeros of random functions and that of Rice and others on the response of nonlinear devices with random inputs confined to narrow-frequency bands, the low-frequency component of the response, envelopes, etc. On precisely this account it is a greater pity that this further work could not have commenced when the basis was first obtained by the pure mathematician, in which case we should be a decade further today.

It is worth remarking in this connection that certain recent mathematical papers of R. H. Cameron and W. T. Martin on the evaluation of Wiener integrals (*Trans. Amer. math. Soc.*, 1945, 58, 184–219) are highly relevant to nonlinear noise problems.

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A Publicity Victim

In my book, *The natural gardens of North Carolina* (pp. 28 and 371), I reported that "In India there is a superstition that tea made from the leaves of the plant (*Centella Asiatica*) acts as a brain stimulant." Recently this story went out as a news release from the North Carolina Department of Conservation with the word "superstition" omitted and with my name introduced in such a way that, from numerous letters received, many people were induced to not only believe the story but to believe that I believed it.

In every communication in which I have related this story, I have called it a superstition. And to have the publicity people, by implication, get one lined up in support of a superstition becomes a serious matter.

Fortunately most scientists have so frequently suffered from publicity misrepresentation that they will be skeptical as to the authenticity of such a story. An occasional extreme examples of how tortuous publicity operates may help keep them on their guard. However, in this instance there was no chance given to prevent this unfortunate twist in the writer's relation to a botanical superstition.

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Blood Group Factors and Ethnic Relationships

Upon the basis of certain extremely interesting and valuable findings concerning the frequency distributions of certain blood group factors among the ethnic groups of mankind Dr. A. S. Wiener (*Science*, 1946, 103, 147) criticizes a diagram (Fig. 18) which appears in a recently published book of mine (*An introduction to physical anthropology*). Dr. Wiener writes: "In view of these findings [on the blood groups], the Australian aborigenes (*sic*) appear to be more closely related to the Mongoloid group than either the Caucasoid or Negroid groups, and the diagram should therefore be revised accordingly."

That Dr. Wiener would consider, as he appears to do, blood group factors alone sufficient to indicate the closeness of the genetic relationship between various groups of man is to me nothing short of astonishing. I had thought that all students of the subject, including Dr. Wiener, were agreed that the inferences drawn from such data could, at most, be regarded only as suggestive. I would be the last to underestimate the potential value of the blood group factors in helping us to untangle the skein of hominid ethnic relationships, but I cannot see that any useful purpose will be served by making these factors bear more than they can carry. As I have written in the book to which Dr. Wiener refers: "The non-adaptive, non-selective nature of the blood group genes renders them of great potential value in the tracing of ethnic relationships. It is, however, not to be expected that it will be possible to solve anthropological problems by merely turning to blood group tables, as one would look up a definition in a dictionary. This is particularly worth emphasizing in view of the fact that neither the evolutionary nor the ethnic implications of the blood groups can as yet be said to be quite clear" (*op. cit.*, p. 134).

I am convinced that the problem of human ethnic relationships will be most fruitfully attacked by the use of genetic methods of analysis, and that the blood group factors will play an important part in that attack, but *in conjunction with the analysis of a good many other characters, the genetic behavior of which is more or less understood.* Taken alone, blood group factors will not tell us very much, and any attempt, at the present time, to erect or criticize a classification of the ethnic groups of man on the basis of such factors alone would be, to say the least, premature. As Dr. Wiener may possibly have forgotten: "The blood tests have limitations, because peoples of the same race may have widely different distributions, while totally unrelated races may have a similar serological classification" (A. S. Wiener. *Blood groups and transfusion.* (3rd ed.) Springfield, Ill.: C. C. Thomas, 1943. P. 330).

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