frank intent of arousing the interest of the student and of maintaining it throughout." This is done in several ways: (1) Many of the illustrative examples are chosen from human genetics; (2) the diagrams are striking and the photographs unusually eye-catching; (3) most chapters begin with an anecdote, a bit of folklore, or a human interest story calculated to entice the reader on to the general principle that follows; (4) as far as possible, the book is written in the language of the layman.

There is a rather full account of genetics history, unique in that it includes some of the remarkable doings of Maupertuis. The order of presentation is such that a description of chromosome behavior, including mitosis, meiosis, alternation of generations, and double fertilization in higher plants, precedes, and provides a background for, the discussion of Mendelism. Some of the best human-interest writing is in the chapters on sex determinations, sex differentiation, and sex-related inheritance. (However, the author himself performs the most striking sex reversal when he refers to V. R. Phelps as "he.") I like the three chapters on mutations and the effects of radiations, patterned somewhat after the writings of H. J. Muller. The student is made to realize the importance of environment in conditioning the expression of genetic characters, and has his attention called to the currently popular fields of biochemical genetics, cytoplasmic heredity, and the genetics of microorganisms. The book ends with a survey of human hereditary traits and a moderately full discussion of eugenics.

To me the weakest points are the discussions of quantitative characters, population genetics, biometry, and agricultural applications. The Hardy-Weinberg rule is put in rather as an afterthought late in the book, and there is no quantitative discussion of selection and inbreeding. These may limit the utility of the book for genetics courses in agricultural colleges. I would prefer to have the Fisher theory of Rh factor inheritance at least mentioned along with Wiener's. There are a few minor slips and misprints, of which the most glaring is a diagram on page 178 which implies crossing over in both sexes in *Drosophila*.

The book seems to me to be oversimplified, but that is for the student readers to decide. It will leave many questions unanswered for the serious student, and unfortunately there is no system of references to direct him to more information on those points where his curiosity has been so effectively aroused. The book is not written for the serious student, however. Furthermore, it sets a new standard in interest appeal in a textbook, and as such should be a real contribution to the effective teaching of genetics.

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Association Affairs

New Prize in Sociology

THE AAAS announces a prize competition for essays reporting upon inquiry into theoretical sociology. Amount, $1,000.

CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

A. It is expected that the essays submitted will strive toward a scientific account of the behaviors of human beings, psychologically and sociologically, in their global setting.

B. Contestants should avoid the descriptions of sociological events in terms of conventional and fictional components derived from everyday speech.

C. To be avoided also are statements derived from traditional philosophies which represent only self-created descriptions projected into the social life of people in the guise of objective interpretations.

D. Since it is the goal of the competition to further the comprehension of the psychological and cultural behavior of persons in current society, it is desirable that the descriptions and interpretations be derived from actual sociological situations. Established knowledge bodily transferred from even the nearest and best oriented sciences cannot substitute for sociologically interpreted findings.

E. As concrete suggestions for the study, it is hoped that entrants will aim at sociological constructs to parallel those that have proved so useful in the biological and physical sciences—for example, particles and waves in physics, blood "milieu" in physiology, genes in genetics.

Manuscripts, which will be judged by a committee of three persons selected from those interested in the field, should be sent to Howard A. Meyerhoff, Administrative Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., Washington 5, D. C. In order that the judges may be impartial, the name of the author should be omitted from the typed copy.

The committee reserves the right to withhold the prize if no worthy essay is submitted.

The donor is willing to offer the prize in 1951 and to continue it on an annual basis for three more years. This year, in view of the lateness of the date, consideration will be given to articles published during the year, provided they meet the conditions stated above. Ordinarily, preference will be given to unpublished manuscripts. To qualify for the 1951 prize, manuscript material should be in the hands of Howard A. Meyerhoff not later than *Dec. 3*.