presence of II and I in the same culture liquid poses the question of the mechanism of their synthesis by the organism and suggests as one possibility the existence of an enzyme that catalyzes their interconversion, namely, an amide dehydrase.

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Association of Susceptibility to Poliomyelitis with Eye and Hair Color

Minto (*1*) recently stated that, in an investigation of 1183 cases of poliomyelitis in members of the Caucasian race, only 18 had blond hair and, of these, only one had blue eyes. The sex and age groups of the population concerned were not given, but presumably the data referred to children of both sexes. As a result of the present investigation (*2*), no significant color differences were found in a series of men born in the British Isles who have had poliomyelitis, either as children or as young adults, when compared with a similar series of men who have not had this disease.

Records of 914 cases of poliomyelitis in the service personnel of World War II were collected from the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance; this was the total number of such cases in which the eye and hair color were recorded. A control series of 5127 cases of injury had previously been made for investigations into a possible association between pigmentation and disease (*3, 4*). (The classification of color types used is that of MacConaill (*5*), namely, blond—blue or gray eyes and fair hair; dark—brown eyes and dark hair; glaucope—blue or gray eyes and dark hair; and cyanope—dark eyes and fair hair. *Blue eyes* in this paper means blue, gray or blue-gray.) Because the proportions of the different color types vary with age, the data have been divided into 5-year age groups. (Eye color does not vary significantly within the age limits of the present series.) It is also known that the proportions vary in different parts of the British Isles, but London was the only area in which there were sufficient cases for this further breakdown of the data.

The differences between the two series are small. They amount to an excess of fair hair and the blond type in the poliomyelitis cases as compared with those of injury. The differences are not significant, the values of P for the complete series being 0.01–0.02 for hair color and 0.02–0.05 for the MacConaill types, and 0.2–0.3 and 0.3–0.5 for the same characters in the London area.

The records of eye and hair color in these cases were made by recruiting boards. To attempt a discussion of fine degrees of color variation on such evidence would be absurd, but there are good reasons for stating that the records are accurate insofar as main color divisions are concerned, for example, fair and dark hair, blue and nonblue eyes. Following are examples of such reasons. (i) The darkening of fair hair with advancing age is known (*6*). The fall in the proportion of fair hair and the blond type in the older age groups is well shown in the series of injuries. (ii) The association of melanoma with the blond type is known (*7*). The 36 cases of this tumor in the Ministry's records in which eye and hair color were recorded showed percentages of 77.8, 41.7, and 33.3 for blue eyes, fair hair, and the blond type, respectively, as compared with 59.3, 24.0, and 19.1 in the control series of injuries. (iii) The percentage of hair classified as "red" in the series of injuries is 3.3, showing no significant difference from the recorded proportions of this color in European stocks (*8*).

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Preliminary Description of Coffinite—a New Uranium Mineral

A new extremely radioactive black mineral from the La Sal No. 2 mine, Mesa County, Colorado, was collected by L. B. Riley, L. R. Stieff, and T. W. Stern, of the U.S. Geological Survey, in August 1951. This new mineral, a uranous silicate ($USiO_4$) with some $(OH)_4^{-4}$ substituting for $(SiO_4)^{-4}$, has been named coffinite in honor of Reuben Clare Coffin. Coffin has made extensive geologic investigations in southwestern Colorado. His report on the uranium-vanadium deposits of the Colorado Plateau (*1*) has been a major contribution to the understanding of the geology of this area.