Hottentots and Bushmen show an "essentially African picture," the deviations are not the same in the two groups.

In two communications in the December 1955 issue of the *American Journal of Human Genetics,* D. F. Roberts and I have independently reestimated the amount of white admixture in the present composition of the U.S. Negroes by using the newer blood-group data from Nigeria and other parts of West Africa supplied chiefly by Mourant and his coworkers. Roberts arrives at an estimate of 20-percent white admixture in the Negro gene pool, with a gene flow from the white into the Negro gene pool of 0.02 to 0.025 per generation during the past 250 to 300 years. I have obtained a slightly higher estimate (about 22 percent) or, if the anomalous D^u frequencies in the West Africans are considered as derived from *D,* an amount of 28 or 29 percent. I have also used recent data on blood-group frequencies in presumably pure American Indians to see whether Indian admixture exists in the present U.S. Negro gene pool. The evidence is reasonably clear that there is no statistically significant component of that origin within the groups sampled.

The number and geographic distribution of such anthropological studies as these—this brief survey makes no pretence to completeness—strikingly demonstrates the activity of the field and the strong new trend in physical anthropology.

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U.N. Committee on Radiation Effects

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects of Atomic Radiation has ended its first series of meetings. For approximately 10 days the committee discussed in detail the scientific problems involved in carrying out the mandate of the General Assembly that it examine the "effects of radiation on man and his environment." Working groups considered seven topics: genetics, the effects of irradiation by internally absorbed isotopes, the effects of external radiation, natural radiation background, exposures during medical procedures, occupational exposure, and environmental contamination.

It was pointed out that, in the field of genetic effects, for example, sufficient information on which to base definite conclusions is not available. Before making recommendations, the committee has asked the Secretariat to collect by 1 Aug. from U.N. member states and from specialized agencies preliminary measurements of natural radiation background and of environmental contamination caused by man-made radioactivity. Specific information on local geographic, geophysical, and demographic conditions will be studied to see if any correlation in biological changes can be obtained from areas with different levels of natural radiation background. Methods of estimating the biological effects of small doses of radiation are also considered essential, and the committee has requested August reports on these, too. The committee's next meeting will take place in October.

Other information that the committee plans to collect on the effects of irradiation will come from various sources. Among these are patients who have been treated with radiation or who have undergone repeated radiological examinations and workers who have been exposed to these hazards in their occupations. For all people whose work exposes them to ionizing radiations, the committee has recommended the maintenance of continuing personal files that would include information from periodic medical examinations. The committee has also decided to establish a means of speedy collection and examination of information on any accidental overexposure.

In addition to requesting measurements over the surface of the earth of radioactive fallout, the committee has also asked for information on the amount, distribution, and composition of radioactivity that still remains in the upper atmosphere. Part of this activity falls on the earth each year and is thus a continuing source of possible increases in radiation levels. However, data available to the committee at this time from India, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States indicate that fallout to date is only a fraction of the natural background.

Although it is calling for information almost immediately in several scientific areas, the committee recognized that standard procedures of measurement have not been formulated and accepted internationally. It has been decided to distribute information on known procedures of measurement as quickly as possible. At the same time, the committee will study and compare these procedures prior to its next meeting with the hope that internationally acceptable standards can be established without delay.

U.S. Technical Education

The following facts about the state of technical education in this country were included in recent testimony before the Research and Development Subcommittee of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee.

The number of trained engineers in the Soviet Union increased from 41,000 in 1920 to 541,000 in 1954, a 1300-percent rise. In the same period, the United States increase was from 215,000 to 500,000.

The number of engineering graduates from Soviet higher institutes rose from 28,000 in 1950 to 63,000 in 1955. In the same period, the number of United States engineering graduates dropped from 52,000 to 23,000.

The Soviet Union is graduating 120,000 engineers and scientists every year to this country's 70,000. Our new crop of graduate engineers is already only half of the 45,000 to 50,000 we need each year within our own national boundaries.

The number of qualified teachers of science and mathematics in United States high schools has dropped 53 percent in the last 5 years, while high-school enrollment has increased by 16 percent. And even this gives a misleading impression, because not more than half of the qualified teachers in these fields actually go into teaching.

Fifty-three percent of all high schools in the United States do not teach physics and only half of the high schools teach chemistry. In addition, a recent survey indicates that between 250,000 and 400,000 United States high-school students are taking their mathematics and scientific training from teachers who are not qualified to teach these subjects.

News Briefs

■ The Bureau of Economic Research and Statistics of the American Dental Association estimates that there are 97,529 dentists in the United States, one for each 1667 persons. The figures are based on the 1956 *American Dental Directory,* which was issued recently by the association.

The survey of the dental profession indicates that there are 1646 more dentists than last year, when it was estimated that there was one dentist for each 1669 persons, and 3803 more than in 1954, when the ratio was one dentist for each 1677 persons.

■ Another coelacanth [**122**, 868 (4 Nov. 1955)] was caught on 4 May off the Comoro Islands, between Madagascar and the African mainland. It is 6 feet, 6 inches long and is believed to be a female. A military plane was dispatched from Tananarive, Madagascar, to bring the fish back to local laboratories before it could decompose. Only one other female coelacanth has been caught before.

■ Portugal hopes to establish by the end of 1957 a laboratory for nuclear physics that will include an experimental reactor and other research equipment.