there is a wide-spread belief that certain fatty acids are indispensable in nutrition, it seems desirable for the chemist to find out more details about the fatty constituents of the foods we eat. The fact that cow's milk contains citric acid is rarely referred to, and its significance is unknown. Here is another problem for research, and Professor Mendel indicated many others in his address.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS attending scientific sessions recently held in Boston were urged to act speedily to agree upon principles governing a standard table for child growth studies. Professor T. Wingate Todd, of Western Reserve University, said that tables setting standard weights for given heights in children do not meet the needs of those studying child growth. He described measurements of Sicilian-born school children in Cleveland public schools, showing that maturity needs to be considered no less than weight and height. The Sicilian children were, on the average, only as tall as American children a year younger than themselves. They were not malnourished, however, for despite their smaller build they were only seven months behind Americans in weight. When x-ray studies of skeletal development were made, the Sicilian boys were found to be four months behind American boys in bodily maturity, and the Sicilian girls were only two months behind American girls. Investigations of Negro children gave comparable results. And in further studies of children from under-privileged homes it was found that while these children were not so tall and heavy as children in economically secure homes, yet the under-privileged children showed neither malnourishment nor under-development. Principles for constructing a reliable table upon which samples of child population can be compared were outlined. Children of each age group should be of identical physical maturity as well as identical age. The socio-economic level should be approximately identical in a series. The date of the sample must be defined, for successive generations have different diet and different social environments. Sexes and human stocks must be segregated. And the samples should be uniform in geographical origin.

THE study of the organization of human nature by observation of the interrelations of the millions of possible combinations of traits and tendencies is an endless task, according to Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, of Teachers College, Columbia University. The organization of human nature may be studied in the genes (the carriers of heredity) and in the unlearned tendencies which are our only present clew to the genes for mental traits. It may be studied in the habits, tendencies, abilities, and so on, into which the original unlearned tendencies are transformed. But these, Dr. Thorndike explained, consist of millions of probabilities that such and such situations will bring out such and such responses of thought, feeling or action. All these things are hard to measure, and there is even dispute as to what the unlearned tendencies are. So it has been customary to simplify the task by assuming the existence of realities in human character to correspond to what are commonly spoken of as leadership, inventiveness, memory, imagination, reasoning, originality, honesty, perseverance, and so on. This simplification is not without danger from the point of view of the scientific man.

Do exceptionally bright children keep their intellectual advantage over their fellows after they are grown? The answer would seem to be in the negative, to judge from an investigation being conducted at the Graduate School of Education of Harvard University. A report of progress of this investigation was made by Professor Edward A. Lincoln. The intelligence of superior pupils, as measured with the Stanford-Binet test, drops substantially during a period of five or more years, and girls lose more than boys. The pupils who were re-examined after a lapse of only two years did not show so great a loss; thus apparently it does not occur early in the school career.