points above that city to have been trenched to a level fully 100 feet below the present stream, or to less than 500 feet above sea level. The filling with gravel to 700 feet thus shows an aggradation of about 200 feet.

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AVERAGE HEIGHT OF AMERICAN MEN

RECENT articles in SCIENCE have left the reader with a certain amount of skepticism as well as a large amount of thought-provoking data.

In the December 12 issue of SCIENCE (Vol. 94, No. 2450, pp. 552–553) Leonard R. Rowntree gives an average height of over 2,000,000 registrants examined as 67½ inches, the identical average of men in World War I. An increase in weight of 8 pounds was shown.

In the January 13 issue of SCIENCE (Vol. 95, No. 2454, *Supplement,* p. 13) Dr. Laurence B. Chenoweth and Richard G. Canning found that of 10,005 students of the University of Cincinnati born between 1904 and 1921, the average height of freshmen in 1916 was 67.5 inches; in 1936 it had increased to 69.9 inches; and that no increase in average size had occurred since 1936. Not only has the size of man increased, the scientists say, but children are growing more rapidly.

To this reader the foregoing statements are very contradictory unless the increased weight of registrants as shown by Rowntree can be assumed to be increased size. Even with this assumption, the conclusions drawn by Chenoweth and Canning that the size of man has increased and children are growing more rapidly is only half substantiated by Rowntree's observations.

Not having available the full text of either report it may be premature on my part to comment; nevertheless, outwardly there appears to be a false hypothesis on the part of Chenoweth and Canning, not on the data obtained, but as a result of the population from which their sample was drawn. Since their sample was only representative of those individuals who no doubt had, through the force of circumstances, been given greater or higher privileges as children, as evidenced by their university attendance, it should not have been used to draw the general conclusions given. In Rowntree's sample of 2,000,000 individuals, taken from all walks of life and from all sections of the United States, it would seem that we have a most complete and uniform distribution, and the odds that the average is a true average are very great. He shows no growth in height from 1916 to 1941, but does show an increase in weight.

These observations would lead one to conclude that the childhood care and advantages, which result in increased growth, are much greater for those students in the University of Cincinnati than for the United States as a whole, and that any conclusions drawn by Chenoweth and Canning should be confined and not generalized.

The most interesting and enlightening article, "Life in the Andes and Chronic Mountain Sickness," by Dr. Carlos Monge, University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru (SCIENCE, Vol. 95, No. 2456, pp. 79–84) would appear to be of value to our officers of the Army, Navy and Air Corps. The strength, lung and heart reactions of the Andean man is certainly something to be reckoned with. It indicates there is possibly a selective area in the United States from which men for certain types of combat and for combat in certain types of terrain could or should be drawn. We have in this country men coming from sea-level to elevations of several thousand feet. Very few have probably been reared at elevations above 6,000 to 7,000 feet, but many have been reared in elevations of 2,000 to 5,000 feet, and their heart, lung and strength reactions would possibly be in a more or less direct ratio to the elevation in which they were reared.

Have our commanding officers given any thought to grouping these men according to their branches of service and to the possible combat areas in which they are to serve? Would not a grouping of our men from coastal areas or sea-level and from the areas of higher altitudes give greater efficiency to our armies?

After reading the latter article by Dr. Monge it was recalled that Rowntree showed that 7 of 10 men from Colorado were accepted as physically fit for service, but only 3 of 10 from one of the southern states. The elevation of Colorado may or may not be a factor, but it does give food for thought to the layman.

In conclusion, I should like to see Dr. Monge's article stripped of its more technical terms, written in a more popular vein so that the layman could better understand it fully and published for distribution. It is believed that many people would derive as much pleasure and information from reading it as I have.

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A CASE OF "WINE-FED" TERMITES

DURING the summer of 1937, a wine dealer was alarmed at the leaking of wine from wooden boxes packed on the floor of his concrete vault. On examination of the cases, insects were found and immediately an exterminator was called in to investigate the situation. The exterminator brought a leaking case of the imported wine to the writer, who identified the "bootleggers" as *Reticulitermes flavipes* Kollar. Several of the bottles had the lead foil, sealing the neck and cork, eaten through, as well as the corks punctured. There were no insects drowned in the wine, but the straw jackets covering the bottles were alive with soldiers