

# Comments and Communications

## Soviet Science

READERS concerned with the present state of science in the USSR will be interested in the review of my *Genetics and the Races of Man*, which appeared in the Soviet journal *Nauka i Zhizn* (7), (1951). In particular it will be instructive to compare this notice with that by Th. Dobzhansky, which appeared in *SCIENCE*, 113, 264 (1951). My thanks are due to Alfred G. Meyer, of the Russian Research Center, Harvard University, for checking the accuracy of my translation.

From "Science à la Américaine," by B. E. Bykhovskii, Doctor of Philosophical Sciences:

The reactionary geneticists show themselves as frank tools of American racism. Boston University Professor William Boyd recently released a book with the significant title "Genetics and the Races of Man." This "work" of an American geneticist was forthwith advertised as "a revolution in anthropological thinking founded on Morganism." This "revolution" consists in the fact that Boyd put "a new theoretical foundation" under race hatred. Not being able to deny the obvious bankruptcy and pseudoscientific character of the racist theories preached by the Hitlerite fascism, Boyd sets himself the goal of renovating and bolstering up racism with the aid of genetical metaphysics. "If racial categories are to have a sound theoretical foundation," declares Boyd, "they should be based on the genetical constitution of man." In order to realize this aim, Boyd proposes a "method" of defining and classifying human races on the basis of "genetical analysis" of the blood. "Blood groups," preaches this myrmidon of racism, "give the most reliable information for racial anthropology, since they are not influenced by the environment." Thus Morgan genetics inspires American racist "methods" for determining racial affinities and the percent of "Anglo-Saxon" blood. The genetical rearmament of racism by the Boston professor will doubtless be enthusiastically greeted by the Klu-Klux-Klanners and the bloody butchers of the heroic Korean people. The "genetical method" proposed by Boyd to determine six races, agreeing with the results of skin color—that is the priceless gift of the American Morganists to American fascism.

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BELIEVE it or not, the "Lament of a Moneyed Man" (*SCIENCE*, 113, 333 [1951]) has found its way into the Soviet press, where it has been reproduced, in part, under the title "Science in the American Style," with a subtitle "Mister Babbitt Seeks Entry into the Pantheon of Science" (*Liter. Gaz.*, (141), 4 [1951]).

Bykhovskii, who expatiates for the Soviet reader on this playful letter to *SCIENCE*, reports it as coming from an "enraged New York businessman" and says: "There are few scientific treatises which reveal the very essence of bourgeois *Weltanschauung* with such

conclusiveness; there are few pamphlets which describe the 'American way of thinking' with such clarity as does this short letter from one of the representatives of the ruling class of the United States of America."

A moneyed man's whimsical suggestion that, because in one week he earns more money than Gibbs did in a year he should therefore have 52 busts in the Hall of Fame to match Gibbs' one, arouses supreme disgust: "That's how the present bosses of America assess the value of science. A statue of Mister Babbitt amid the ruins of American culture!"

Innocent whimsey has thus been put to the service of a propaganda without principle and made to contribute to the systematic defamation in the Soviet press of all things American.

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## Lytic Effect of Tygon Plastic Tubing

NORMALLY, chicken red blood cells can be kept without hemolysis for a week or longer. During the course of immunogenetical studies of the red blood cellular antigens in the chicken, hemolysis of the cells of some of the blood samples occurred within 1-2 days after collection. The cause of this premature lysis was found to be associated with the Tygon Plastic Tubing (Formulation S22-1) used as part of the apparatus for the storage of the salt solution.

Several experiments were carried out in which the salt solution (2% sodium citrate, 0.42% sodium chloride) was held in Tygon tubing for periods of 8-26 days. All blood subsequently collected in glass tubes, each containing 1-3 ml of solution, turned dark within a few minutes, and hemolysis began in approximately half of the samples within 18 hr. Retention of the salt solution in Tygon tubing for a period of 24 hr was sufficient to cause some lysis. However, simply running the solution through the tubing did not produce this effect. It was also found that the concentration of the salt solution, up to 2.2% of sodium citrate and 0.5% of sodium chloride, was not responsible for the hemolysis.

When the "contaminated" solution was allowed to remain in contact with red blood cells for 30 min at room temperature and then separated from them by centrifugation, it lost its lytic properties: fresh blood cells added to such a solution were not lysed.

"Contamination" of the solution occurred when 1" strips of tubing were immersed in small amounts of the solution for 10 days prior to collection of the blood. However, if the pieces of Tygon tubing were thoroughly scrubbed with soap and water, no noticeable effect on the solution was obtained. Boiling long lengths of tubing (10 min) or washing the inside of the tubing with soap and water without scrubbing