

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1921.

RESEARCH IN EUGENICS¹

<i>Research in Eugenics</i> : DR. CHARLES B. DAVENPORT	391
<i>Joel Asaph Allen</i> : H. E. ANTHONY	397
<i>Scientific Events</i> :	
<i>The Danish Deep-sea Expedition; The Fifth Avenue Hospital of New York; The Employment of Mental Defectives in England; Bureau of Special Education in Ohio; A Forest Experimental Station at Asheville, North Carolina; The Installation of President Farrand at Cornell University</i>	402
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	405
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	407
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :	
<i>A Bird's-eye View of American Languages North of Mexico</i> : DR. E. SAPIR. <i>The Use of Vitamine Food-tablets as an Aid toward conserving the Food Supply</i> : PROFESSOR J. F. McCLENDON	408
<i>Scientific Books</i> :	
<i>Ranson's Anatomy of the Nervous System</i> : PROFESSOR C. JUDSON HERRICK.....	409
<i>Special Articles</i> :	
<i>A Simple Apparatus for Micro-manipulation under the Highest Magnifications of the Microscope</i> : DR. ROBERT CHAMBERS. <i>Chromosome Relationships in Wheat</i> : DR. KARL SAX	411
<i>Astronomical Meeting at the Potsdam Astronomical Observatory</i>	415
<i>The American Mathematical Society</i> : PROFESSOR R. G. D. RICHARDSON.....	416

MAN is studying all phenomena. He has at last come to study himself. Not his diseases, not his language, not his customs merely, but also his more intimate self. Man is studying man as an animal, who varies in his traits, who selects his mates for better or worse, who has a larger or smaller number of children that are more or less healthy and live for a varying period. The races of man are being studied not merely to list their differences, but to find how those differences arose and how they are transmitted to progeny and how they intermingle. We are studying the laws that govern the distribution of traits in the family; we are studying the consequences of combinations of these traits in the instincts, interests and behavior of individuals. At last we are studying man as the product of breeding and as the subject of an evolutionary process. And we are studying the human germ plasm, its composition, its mutations and its mixtures.

And why do we investigate? Is not enough known to warrant *propaganda*; and should we not better organize for a campaign to change what needs changing? Alas! we have now too little precise knowledge in any field of eugenics. We can command respect for our eugenic conclusions only as our findings are based on rigid proof, a proof that is either statistical or experimental. Only as we are able to base our statements on scientific, quantitative data can we hope to carry conviction and not arouse contrary opinion. People do not have heated discussions on the multiplication table; they will not dispute quantitative findings in any science.

It is largely due to the extraordinary vision of Mrs. E. H. Harriman, the founder of the Eugenics Record Office, that in this country eugenics is more a subject of research than of

¹ Address at the opening session of the International Congress of Eugenics.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to The Editor of Science, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

Science

54 (1400)

Science **54** (1400), 391-416.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/54/1400.citation>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.