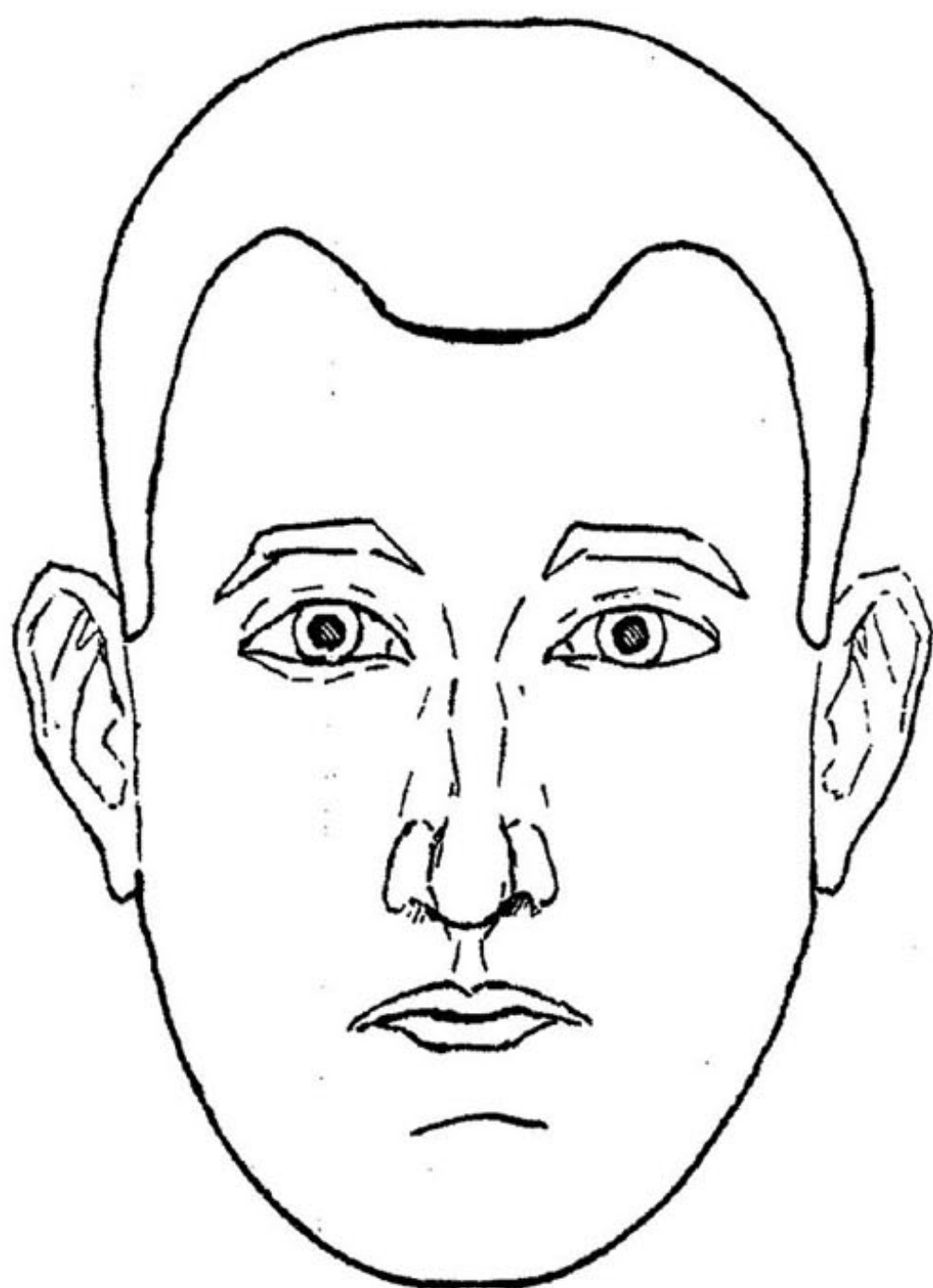


# DOES THE "MELTING-POT" MELT?

**I**S THE UNITED STATES "The Melting-Pot" of the races? Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, of the National Museum of Washington, thinks not—at any rate, not yet—all our poets and playwrights to the contrary notwithstanding. He has been investigating the older contents of this pot, and finds that even the material which went into it first has not yet melted. Several hundred members of the old, white, American stock have been measured and examined to find whether the people making up this stock are tending to become alike—whether a new sub-type of the human race is being formed here, due to inter-marriage, environment, and the pressure of circumstances. Dr. Hrdlicka finds that such is not the case. Even the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers, the Virginia Cavaliers, the Pennsylvania Dutch, and the Huguenots, while possibly not as much unlike as their ancestors were, are still, he thinks, far from a real blend. Says *The Journal of Heredity* (Washington, March):



**THE AMERICAN FACE.**

Several hundred descendants of old American families have been measured, and this face has been made up of the average of each feature in all the individuals. Thus the diagram, drawn to scale from Dr. Hrdlicka's data by C. H. Popenoe, shows "the mean man of the old white American stock." It is pointed out that the most conspicuous peculiarities of the type are the oblong outline of the face and the well-developed forehead.

"The Melting-Pot is a figure of speech; and, as far as physical anthropology is concerned, it will not be anything more in this country, at least for many centuries.

"Dr. Hrdlicka has had this investigation under way for four years, and it is not yet fully completed—for Americans of unbroken American ancestry for even three generations are much scarcer than was supposed when the work was undertaken. Even the proud 'Mayflower Descendant' is more likely than not, it would seem, to have at least one grandfather or grandmother who was born abroad. So the investigator has, up to the present time, been able to get only about three-fourths of the two hundred men and two hundred women whom he wants, and the conclusions here announced must be regarded as not



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wholly final, yet doubtless reflecting the real conditions. With this understanding, some of the more remarkable of the preliminary results, based on the first one hundred men and one hundred women measured, may be cited.

"The most striking result of the examinations,' Dr. Hrdlicka says, 'is the great range of variation among old Americans in nearly all the important measurements. The range of variation is such that in some of the most significant determinations it equals not only the variation of any one group, but the combined variations of all the groups that enter into the composition of the Americans.' This fact would be interpreted by the geneticist as an evidence of hybridity. It is clear that, at the very beginning, a number of diverse, altho not widely differing, stocks must have made up the colonial population; and intermarriage and the influence of the environment have not welded these stocks into one blend, but have merely produced a mosaic-like mixture. This is good evidence of the permanence of inherited traits, altho it must be qualified by the statement that it does not extend equally to all the features of the body, the face, hands, and feet having been found less variable than, for instance, the stature or the form of the head."

Dr. Hrdlicka finds that the stature of Americans of the old stock, both men and women, is higher than the European average, except in Scotland. The weight is about the same as in Europe, with a slightly greater tendency to stoutness in the women. The general proportions of the body he classes as medium. He says of these:

"Great fluctuations are shown, particularly in the chest—a feature which shows distinctly poor development among the women, often accompanied by deficient development of the breasts and shoulders. Indeed, one of the most striking of the facts brought out is that, barring individual exceptions, the women of the old American stock appear to be below par, physically. The males are, on the whole, admirable specimens of the white race; the females are not infrequently undersized, underdeveloped, and weak in comparison with what they should be. This difference is not due, the investigator thinks, to heredity, but is solely a matter of bringing-up. It is already being corrected in the younger generation, he thinks, for under the stimulus of widespread interest in sports, outdoor life, and a sensible manner of living, not a few of the younger women and girls whom he has measured seem to be superior to their mothers. But he sees still room for improvement, if the women of the old American families are to be as a class such physically good types of womanhood as are the American men of manhood."

The American face, according to Dr. Hrdlicka, is high and oval, often somewhat narrow in the women. The forehead is well developed, the nose and ears long. Our faces seem to be growing narrower and our jaws smaller. Despite our supposed North-European ancestry, he finds no pronounced blonds. The men are apt to be dark and the women light. Only one-tenth of the women, and not a single man had red hair. Most of the eyes were blues and browns, and black eyes were few. The head-form differed widely but is noteworthy for its good development, especially in the men. The writer goes on:

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"Dr. Hrdlicka's study has further given him opportunity to find whether there are any marked geographical types among the old Americans: whether, for instance, the first families of Virginia are measurably different from the Puritans of New England. He believes that they are not—that such differences as are recognized are merely those of training, habits, dress, and social customs; and that this, likewise, holds true of the Westerners, whose more or less recognizable type Dr. Hrdlicka finds to be merely a matter of home influence, education, and dress, and not so much of structure or physiology.

"Two main objects were in view when the study of the old Americans was undertaken. One was to establish reliable norms or standards for anthropological comparisons. This purpose will be accomplished as soon as the number of subjects studied becomes large enough.

"The other main object in view was, as already said, to determine whether the descendants of the early American settlers, living in a new environment and more or less constantly intermarrying, were being amalgamated into a distinct sub-type of the white race. Enough has already been found, as this preliminary report shows, to prove that such amalgamation has not taken place to any important degree. The persistency in heredity of certain features, which run down even through six or eight generations, is one of the remarkable results brought out by the study.

"If the process could continue for a few hundred years more, Dr. Hrdlicka thinks, it might reach a point where one could speak of the members of old American families as of a distinct stock. But so far this point has not been reached; the Americans are almost as diverse and variable, it appears, as were their first ancestors in this country."