

# SOCIAL EUGENICS

By FRED HOGUE

Scientists who read the future as the astronomers read the heavens continue to speculate on what the race of human beings will be like 20,000 years from now. Like the astronomers, they base their predictions on the concept that what has happened will continue to happen, and that what has been will be.

They envisage the human species 20,000 years hence with an overdeveloped and as oversexed brain in an underdeveloped and an undersexed body. This concept is based on the human development of the last two or three centuries, during the time when the intellect has been developed at the expense of the physical structure.

The number of the unfit, as compared to the fit, has more than doubled in what we term the enlightened countries including our own, in the last hundred years. The breeding from the bottom is more prolific than that from the top.

I speak of this in the biological, not the social sense. The distinctions of biology are not based on poverty and wealth. The sons and daughters of a millionaire may belong to the class of the unfit, and those of poverty-stricken parents may belong to the pre-eminently fit for the reproduction of their kind.

The biological problem that is engaging the most capable thinkers of the present generation is that of checking the reproduction of the mentally and physically defective element of modern society. The coming race will be what we make it. There will be no underdeveloped bodies if we of this and the next two or three generations take measures to prevent the underdeveloped from reproducing their kind. The biologist will tell you what has been done in improving the breed of domestic animals and fowls can be done with the human animal.

Through sterilization science has provided a way. All that is lacking is the socialized intent. "What should be done can be done." And no intelligent and unprejudiced person can honestly deny that, at the present time, the unfit

are overbreeding while the eminently fit are underbreeding. The number of happy morons chattering like sparrows and living on the dole is a marked contrast to the overworked and unhappy producers who have to provide not only for their own families but for those of the morons as well.

Social workers all over the country can tell how this condition has become aggravated during the last three or four years. The attention of eminent sociologists is now directed to the movement in Germany and the other Nordic countries of Europe for the elimination of the reproduction of the unfit. If this movement fulfills its present promise, the surviving races 20,000 years hence—nay, a century hence, will not be the type of the oversexed brains and the undersexed bodies the scientists of the present generation predict.

Rene Thevenin, noted French scientist, writes in a recent article: "Survival of the fittest does not mean the survival of the best and noblest, merely the survival of the types best fitted to take advantage of the conditions that surround them." He pictures the human type of the future most likely to be that of the "happy morons," and adds "Hardly have organized brains managed to build up a civilization than disorganized brains find a way to destroy it."