

# NOTED SCIENTIST SEES GRADUAL DETERIORATION OCCURRING IN HUMANS

## Deterioration is Due to Bottle Fed Babies, Crossing of Races and Other Causes.

BY ELLIS H. MARTIN.  
International News Service Staff Correspondent.

BERKELEY, Cal.—A gradual deterioration is taking place in the human race.

This deterioration is due to: Bottle-fed babies.

"Indolence" of the better class of women in rearing children.

Employment of large numbers of women in office work.

Crossing of the races.

Inherited effects of alcohol.

Modern environmental agencies of industry and city life.

These are the conclusions reached by Dr. Samuel J. Holmes, professor of zoology at the University of California in his latest book, "The Trend of the Race." In this volume Dr. Holmes traces the evolution of the American people and mankind and presents the results of intensive study and investigation of the race.

**Child Birth Difficult.**

Factors noted in tracing the deterioration include increasing difficulty experienced in bearing children; frequent inability of women to nurse their children; the growing frequency of abortion; decrease in stature; increasing dental irregularities and tendency to baldness; loss of use of ear muscles and degeneration of the little toe.

"It is a fairly general opinion, which has a considerable following in medical circles, that the physique of modern civilized women has become rather seriously weakened in the last few generations," says Dr. Holmes. "Our index of this is the increasing difficulty experienced in bearing children. The ease with which women of primitive races bear children has often been remarked upon. It is not improbable that this matter has been duly exaggerated. Child bearing is easier, however, among women who are used to a moderate amount of physical labor.

"Undoubtedly the life of modern women, especially those of the more well-to-do classes, is not favorable to any child-bearing. The employment of large numbers of women in sedentary occupations, such as stenography, office work, etc., cannot fail to multiply the troubles of child-birth.

"Another much-discussed physical effect of modern woman is her frequent inability to nurse children, those who have lived among primitive peoples have frequently commented on the almost universal ability of mothers to feed their children at the breast, and among Europeans the women of previous generations nursed their children much more frequently than the women of the present time.

**Disinclined to Nurse Babies.**

"Many women are disinclined, also, to nurse their children for at least a very long time in these days of artificial substitutes for mother's milk. The fact that the proportion of women unable to nurse their children is usually greater in cities than in rural districts points to the potency of environmental influences for this change in natural conditions."

The inherited effects of alcohol Dr. Holmes gives as one of the probable reasons for the alleged degeneracy of modern women. Increase in crime, including murders and suicides he declares, is also held to follow in the wake of inherited degeneracies.

In this regard he says: "The growing frequency of suicide is often regarded as connected with the alleged increase of insanity and nervous disorders and hence as symptoms of racial deterioration. It is also explained as the result of the insane environment, which is commonly held to be productive of more nervous strain than in previous years."

**Civilization Effects Shown.**

Other effects of modern civilization on the human race, Dr. Holmes points out as follows:

"Many physical characteristics of men are affected considerably by environmental agencies. The latter are especially prone to influence strength, longevity, rate of growth, prevalence of various diseases, and to a less extent stature and weight. Conditions of life, especially in large industrial centers, have changed in such a way as to affect the physique of a large part of the inhabitants. The relatively low stature of city dwellers is probably due largely to this cause.

"It is not improbable that many dental irregularities and maladjustments are the result of racial crossing. With more or less independent variability of laws and teeth it often happens that teeth are unduly crowded in small jaws or are otherwise out of normal relations.

"Along with the deterioration of teeth there seems to be a correlative tendency to the loss of hair. Baldness is much more common to us than among primitive races. Although this is commonly ascribed to the wearing of hats, recent studies have shown that this infirmity depends largely on ancestry and the influence of hats is largely exaggerated.

"We have all but lost the use of some of our ear muscles and entirely lost the use of others, but we are no worse off in our present mode of life. Our little toe is said to be regenerated, and there are probably several minor structures in the same situation. A further degeneration of the vertebral apparatus would probably be a positive advantage.

**Nature Corrects Herself.**

Despite the dark picture he has painted of the course of the American race, Dr. Holmes is not entirely pessimistic. In the course of his investigations he has found several factors which tend to indicate that nature is herself correcting the deficiencies which modern civilization has conferred on the race.

"At any rate there is a large amount of evidence that it is favoring the maintenance of physical vigor and keenness of mind. Sexual selection is still in a more doubtful position."

"To a certain extent it retains what might be considered its primitive function of denying the privilege of parenthood to the poorer or uglier individuals of the species, but the more capable and independent spirits, especially among women, are coming to be denied this privilege also."

Intelligent recognition of the racial maladies which affect the present day and generation forms the only method for correction, says the college writer and lecturer.

"It is only by recognizing these and understanding the methods of their working that effective means can be taken to keep them in check," he says.

**Attempt to Curtail Defectives.**

"Rather feeble attempts have been made to curtail the propagation of mental defectives through sterilizing or segregating some of the worst of these undesirable elements. The practice carried on much more extensively would undoubtedly relieve society of an immense burden. But the elimination of our worst defectives would not meet the most serious difficulty which consists in the loss of stocks which carry our best inheritance.

"It is doubtful if the pecuniary rewards which sometimes have been advocated for increasing the birth rate of desirable parents would prove very effective. There is much to be said in making parenthood voluntary in all classes so as to restrict the birth rate among the people of better endowments. This of itself would lead to a greater relative fecundity among those of superior intelligence, and so long as restriction is not carried far enough to prevent all increase of population the result would doubtless be socially and eugenically desirable.

"For most civilized countries, therefore, the necessity for further restriction of the birth rate must sooner or later become imperative. If this should occur mainly in people of better endowments who already have a low birth rate, the deterioration of our racial inheritance will go on at an accelerated pace.

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## SUPPLYING AMERICA WITH BOOZE IS FAST BECOMING GREAT MEXICAN INDUSTRY

**'John Barleycorn' Now Furnishes Great Portion of Country's National Income.**

BY LOUIS P. KIRBY  
(International News Service Staff Correspondent)

MEXICO CITY.—While other sources of revenue of the Mexican Treasury have been dwindling because of the closing of mines, the bad crops, the suspension of operations in the oil fields, John Barleycorn continues to be a pillar of the financial structure of the nation.

Mexico's income from taxes on alcoholic beverages is steadily increasing. During the past year the receipts were 15,500,000 pesos, but they will be much greater this year as there is now what might be called an "export" demand for beverages manufactured in Mexico.

The liquors are chiefly "exported" across the border, but without the knowledge of Mr. Harding or General Obregon. Bootleggers and smugglers handle tequila chiefly, because this

der city whose stock of beverages became exhausted. He drove in his motor car to the shop of a captain of the bootlegging industry.

"I want a bottle of tequila," he said.

"You already have it," replied the bootlegger.

"You are wrong," protested the other. "I wouldn't be here if I had a quart of anything."

"Look under the cushion," returned the bootlegger.

A corner of the cushion was lifted. Underneath was a bottle of tequila.

The smuggler had divined the visitor's wants and had thrust the bottle under the cushion so swiftly that not one of the two or three men in the car saw him do it.

When he received payment he caused the money to disappear into his pocket with a swift motion which would have done credit to any magician of the stage.

When the United States lost its revenue of about \$200,000,000 a year from distillers and brewers, through the establishing of prohibition, there were weavers of figures who predicted that Mexico's income from beverages would increase enormously, with the possibility that the increase would be great enough to pay all of Mexico's debts, with a surplus for the financing of the country. This has not happened. It is a far cry from fifteen million pesos, or about \$7,500,000, to \$300,000,000. But there have been substantial gains. Old breweries and distilleries have been enlarged, and new plants have been built, giving the Government greater returns from these sources than in the past.

While John Barleycorn's contribu-

tion to the Mexican treasury is important in the time of depression, it probably never will reach the proportions predicted by anti-prohibition propagandists.

Most of the alcoholic drinks of Mexico are made from plants which grow everywhere, almost like weeds. "Home brew" in this country is as old as the Aztecs. And the rustics know how to make their own drinks, without troubling themselves about Internal Revenue stamps; and John Barleycorn's contribution to the Treasury will increase only as far as the urban population of Mexico grows.

There is continued and strong agitation for prohibition, with a possibility that John Barleycorn's money may be rejected in Mexico as in the United States.

Some States, like Chihuahua, have taken definite steps toward prohibition, although in some cases the movements lack sincerity of purpose.

Sometimes the agitation is to serve a political purpose; sometimes to attract prohibition or anti-prohibition agents who have money to spend.

Reformers in the United States are contributing much cash in Mexico, and the hands of men of a singular sort.

Some fine corner lots and mortgages, at 12 per cent a year, have been acquired through the generosity of earnest old mada in the United States. In the files of every church organization and reform society interested in helping the Mexicans, it is said, are letters from worthies here who are willing to spend their money for them and spend it wisely.

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