

SCIENCE Can Build a SUPERIOR RACE —Dr. Alexis Carrel

Noted Biologist and Philosopher Advocates
Isolation of Selected Youths for a Period
of Twenty-Five Years
for Intensive Study



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FOR 'THE NEW CITY'

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—Dr. Alexis Carrel.

BEFORE AND—NOW

AN INDIVIDUAL'S survival was formerly wholly due to his adaptive capacity. Modern civilization, with the help of hygiene, comfort, good food, soft living, hospitals, physicians and nurses, has kept alive many human beings of poor quality. These weaklings and their descendants contribute in a large measure to the enfeeblement of the white races.

—Dr. Alexis Carrel.

By Carol Bird

THAT the hour has struck for civilization to produce human elite, to be developed and modeled by science, is the belief of Dr. Alexis Carrel, one of the most distinguished scientists of our time, surgeon, biologist, philosopher, winner of the Nobel Prize in 1912 and the Nordhoff-Jung Cancer Prize in 1931.

Dr. Carrel, who has spent a lifetime in the study of human life, outlines this striking idea of the need for producing a higher type of men in his recent book, "Man, the Unknown." This noted scientist, member of the Rockefeller Institute, feels that we do not "apprehend man as a whole," and that we must "rescue the individual from the state of intellectual, moral and physiological atrophy brought about by modern conditions of life."

Human beings produced by industrial civilization are weakened, chiefly by the "atrophy of adaptive functions, by the habits of modern life," according to Dr. Carrel, and it is because of this degenerative process that a new type of superior human being must be developed. He thinks that we are now in a critical period of human development, that the very foundations of our present civilization are threatened. Reminding us that "the race is to the swift and the battle to the strong," he suggests ways of developing virile, healthy and complete people.

"In spite of the immense sums of money expended on the education of children and young people of the United States, the intellectual elite does not seem to have increased," said Dr. Carrel, pointing out the necessity for and outlining his vision of a superior race.

Modern civilization seems to be incapable of producing people endowed with imagination, intelligence and courage," he continued. "Since the natural conditions of existence have been destroyed by modern civilization, the science of man is becoming the most necessary of all sciences. Man must turn his attention to himself. What is the good of increasing the comfort, the luxury, the beauty, the size and the complexities of our civilization, if our weakness prevents us from guiding it to our best advantage?"

"The development of complete human beings must be the aim of our efforts. It is only with such especially developed individuals that a real civilization can be constructed.

"There is, for example, a class of men who, although as disharmonious as the criminal and the insane, are indispensable to modern society. They are the men of genius. Humanity has never gained anything from the efforts of the crowd."

Dr. CARREL then touched on the fallacy of the democratic principle that all men are born equal. He said:

"Human beings are equal. Individuals are not. The feeble-minded and the man of genius should not be equal before the law. The standardization of men by the democratic ideal has already determined the predominance of the weak. Everywhere the weak are preferred to the strong. They are aided and protected, often admired.

"Like the invalid, the criminal and the insane, they attract the sympathy of the public. Artists and men of science supply the country with beauty, health and wealth. They live and die in poverty. Robbers and gangsters enjoy prosperity and peace.

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hygiene, comfort, good food, soft living, hospitals, physicians and nurses, has kept alive many human beings of poor quality. These weaklings and their descendants contribute, in a large measure, to the enfeeblement of the white races."

Outlining his vision of a superior race and how it can be brought about, Dr. Carrel said: "A choice must be made among the multitude of civilized human beings. Natural selection has not played its part for a long while. Many inferior individuals have been conserved through the efforts of hygiene and medicine.

"But we cannot prevent the reproduction of the weak when they are neither insane nor criminal. Or destroy sickly or defective children as we do the weaklings in a 'litter of puppies.' The only way to obviate the disastrous predominance of the weak is to develop the strong.

"Our efforts to render normal the unfit are evidently useless. We should, then, turn our attention toward promoting the optimum growth of the fit. By making the strong still stronger, we could effectively help the weak, for the herd always profits by the ideas and inventions of the elite. Instead of leveling organic and mental inequalities, we should amplify them and construct greater men."

This seeming miracle of building up

of superior people. Instead of attempting, as we have done in the past, to drag them down to the level of the weaklings, the incompetents, the defectives could be accomplished, according to the celebrated scientist, thus:

"We must single out the children who are endowed with high potentialities and develop them as completely as possible. In this manner we could give to the Nation a nonhereditary aristocracy. Such children may be found in all classes of society, although distinguished men appear more frequently in distinguished families than in others. The descendants of the founders of America may still possess the ancestral qualities. These qualities are generally hidden under the cloak of degeneration. But this degeneration is often superficial. It comes chiefly from education, idleness, lack of responsibility and moral discipline.

"The sons of very rich men, like those of criminals, should be removed while still infants from their natural surroundings. Thus separated from their family, they could manifest their hereditary strength. In the aristocratic families of Europe there are also individuals of great vitality.

"The issue of the Crusaders is by no means extinct. The laws of genetics indicate the probability that the legendary audacity and love of adventure can appear again in the lineage of the feudal lords. It is possible also that the offspring of the great criminals who have imagination, courage and judgment, of the heroes of the French or Russian Revolution, of the high-handed business men who live among us, might be excellent building stones for an enterprising minority.

"As we know, criminality is not hereditary if not united with feeble-mindedness or other mental or cerebral defects. High potentialities are rarely encountered in the sons of honest, intelligent, hard-working men who have had ill luck in their careers, who have

tailed in business or have muddled along all their lives in inferior positions. Or among peasants living on the same spot for centuries. However, from such people sometimes spring artists, poets, adventurers, saints."

WHILE Dr. Carrel reminds us that strength and boldness sometimes suddenly appear in families where they have never before been observed, he also adds:

"Nevertheless, one should not expect to find among peasants and proletarians many subjects endowed with great developmental possibilities. Today most of the members of the proletarian class owe their situation to the hereditary weakness of their organs and their mind.

"Likewise, the peasants have remained attached to the soil since the Middle Ages, because they possess the courage, judgment, physical resistance and lack of imagination and daring which render them apt for this type of life. These unknown farmers, anonymous soldiers, passionate lovers of the soil, the backbone of the European nations, were, despite their great qualities, of a weaker organic and psychological constitution than the medieval barons who conquered the land and defended it against all invaders."

Eugenics as one means for perpetuation of the strong was named by Dr. Carrel. He said: "A great race must propagate its best elements. However, in the most highly civilized nations reproduction is decreasing and yields inferior products. Women voluntarily deteriorate through alcohol and tobacco. They subject themselves to dangerous dietary regimens in order to obtain a conventional slenderness of their figure.

"Besides, they refuse to bear children. Such a defection is due to their education, to the progress of feminism, to the growth of short-sighted selfishness. It also comes from economic conditions, nervous unbalance, instability of marriage and fear of the burden imposed upon parents by the weakness or precocious corruption of children.

"We must facilitate the union of the best elements of the race through education and certain economic advantages. The progress of the strong depends on

the conditions of their development and the possibility left to parents of transmitting to their offspring the qualities which they have acquired in the course of their existence.

"The free practice of eugenics could lead not only to the development of stronger individuals but also of strains endowed with more endurance, intelligence and courage. These strains should constitute an aristocracy from which great men would probably appear."

Still another revolutionary and brilliant plan was then outlined by Dr. Carrel for the development of "engineers," men who would "understand the mechanisms of the body and soul of the individual and of his relations with the cosmic and social world." These men would "master anatomy, physiology, biological chemistry, psychology, metaphysics, pathology, medicine and also have a thorough acquaintance with genetics, nutrition, morals, sociology, economics" and so on. They would supply the leaders and educators of the young in the new epoch, "the new city," with the information necessary for the development of superior men. They would live more or less like "monks of the great contemplative orders."

"Can any individual master all these sciences which I have named?" repeated Dr. Carrel. "It seems that such an accomplishment is not impossible. In about twenty-five years of uninterrupted study one could learn them."

"At the age of 50 those who had submitted themselves to this discipline could effectively direct the construction of the human being and of a civilization based on his true nature. Indeed, the few gifted individuals who dedicate themselves to this work will have to renounce the common modes of existence."

HERE Dr. Carrel's delightful irony tinged his theme, his little stab at the banality of the modern man's way of life occurred. He said:

"Those who renounce the common modes of life will not be able to play golf and bridge, to go to cinemas, to listen to radios, to make speeches at banquets, to serve on committees, to attend meetings of scientific societies, political conventions and academies, or to cross the ocean and take part in international congresses.

"They must live like the monks of the great contemplative orders, and not like university professors, and still less like business men. In the course of the history of all great nations many have sacrificed themselves for the salvation of the community. Why should not some individuals sacrifice their lives to acquire the science indispensable to the making of man and of his environment?"

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