

---

#### Principles of Genetics

It is indeed unfortunate when an otherwise excellent book is marred by a few gross misstatements of fact. Such is the case of the recent book, "Principles of Genetics," by Grace White. In man the inheritance of the blood groups is known to be due to triple alleles. No trait in man is more clear cut or more definitely established, yet the author states that the inheritance of the blood groups is due to duplicate factors.

On page 265 we find the following statements: "The chances for any one autosome from a paternal grandparent reappearing in a grandson is estimated at  $1 : 2^{23}$  or one chance in 8,388,608. The grandson has one chance in six, however, of receiving the paternal grandparents' X-chromosomes, and this makes the study of sex-linked inheritance far simpler than the study of autosomal characters." These statements are obviously incorrect. There is no chance whatsoever that a boy received his X-chromosomes from his paternal grandfather. Moreover, the chances that he did *not* receive *any* autosomes from his paternal grandfather are  $2^{23}$ , quite different from the author's statement. Sex-linked factors may be detected more easily in males because the recessives manifest themselves when present.

The book as a whole is very readable, and is written in an interesting manner. Mutations are used in the broader sense, to include chromosomal aberrations as well as gene mutations. The illustrations are both excellent and numerous. Aside from the errors mentioned above, the book is an unusually good elementary treatise of genetics.—*D. C. Rife.*

**Principles of Genetics**, by E. Grace White. 352 pp. St. Louis, The C. V. Mosley Co., 1940. \$2.50.