
Human Heredity in Picture Form

In this book the author has presented the thesis that many common normal traits run in families and make fascinating material for studies in human heredity. Photographs and descriptions are offered of about 200 such traits. For those who have gotten the impression that only the abnormalities stressed by many authors are genetic, the book brings a refreshing viewpoint on normal and benign variations. For the serious student of genetics, however, the book is disappointing. References to literature are poorly chosen. Older literature is often cited and modern interpretations ignored. Many of the subjects discussed have no citations at all, although good papers exist.

The phylogenetic relations of genes are badly mishandled. This reviewer has on numerous occasions pointed out the lack of understanding of matters of genotype equilibrium on the part of writers on human heredity. The author of this book says, for example, (p. 109) "Since about 65 per cent of individuals can roll the tongue, this trait may be a dominant one."

Psychologists will find much to disagree with in the book, particularly in the chapter on temperaments and special abilities. Even the most genetically-minded psychologist (or biologist) will find it difficult to accept a genetic basis for such a trait as good taste in dress.

A chapter is included on sex and sex-determination, and a glossary of 91 terms and an index complete the book.—*L. H. Snyder.*

Family Treasurers, by David D. Whitney. 299 pp., 234 fig. Lancaster, Penna., the Jaques Cattell Press, 1942. \$3.50.