

# THE NEW BROTHERHOOD

By J. D. Newsom

**T**O the sociological bibliographer "Race Prejudice" will not be without interest, but the present day student will find it somewhat out of date. M. Finot pleads eloquently for a better understanding between civilized nations and a more tolerant attitude toward the people of ruder culture with whom we come in contact. For, he argues, there can be no question but that all human types, however different they may appear, are so alike in the essentials of structure that we must regard them as well marked varieties of a common species.

Few will dispute this statement, except perhaps the propagandists who, for political ends, have spread the belief in a "pure" Nordic race. According to the anthropological definition of the word "race" there is in Europe no racial problem. It is safe to assert that no two European stocks are so different physically that their hybrid progeny may not pass as members of either parent stock.

M. Finot ascribes all variations between types to two factors — environment and prolonged isolation. But he endows environment with far more importance than is generally the case now-

adays. He overlooks the vital fact that man, the "tool making animal", has been able to modify his environment without himself being modified. Because of this ability to manufacture "external limbs" man has not been forced to alter his anatomical structure to meet slowly changing conditions. He retains his unspecialized body, while the constant exercise of his tool making faculties has enabled him to specialize on brain.

Further, M. Finot would have us believe that one or two generations would enable cannibals "living on the basis of European civilization to fill up the moral and mental lacunæ which separate them from an average Frenchman". This is really a little too optimistic. The gap between a Melanesian and a European is unbridgeable. It is not a question of environment but of cultural development. Salvation does not lie in making a savage adopt our none too commendable civilization, but in helping him to develop along his own lines without any abrupt or demoralizing transition.

Such inability to grasp the distinction between environment and cultural development vitiates M. Finot's whole argument. He makes much of the fact that the French are the most mongrel

nation in Europe — more Teutonic, he declares, than the Germans — and he scoffs at the possibility of an impending war. This in 1906! He mocks M. de Lapouge's prophecy, made in 1887, that "in the next century millions will cut each other's throats because of one or two degrees more or less of cephalic index".

It is doubtful whether Americans will be willing to accept M. Finot's solution to the Negro problem. He suggests complete assimilation as the only possible remedy, basing his opinion upon the fact that crossbreeds are fecund, long lived, and of at least average intelligence when given the chance to grow up in favorable surroundings. Race crossing may not be bad biologically, but it usually has unfortunate social consequences, for which the author's only palliative is tolerance, and more tolerance.

Also of interest to American readers will be the statement that the height of the daughters of American multimillionaires tends to approximate that of their brothers because they live in the open air and devote their days to lawn tennis and — football!

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Race Prejudice. By Jean Finot. Translated by Florence Wade-Evans. E. P. Dutton and Co.