

ful genetic basis for widening the I.Q. gap between the races. "Is there a danger," Jensen asks, "that current welfare policies, unaided by eugenic foresight, could lead to the genetic enslavement of a substantial segment of our population? The possible consequences of our failure seriously to study these questions may well be viewed by future generations as our society's greatest injustice to Negro Americans."⁵

One of the most admirable of the Jensen papers is entitled, "Let's understand Skodak and Skeels finally." This 1949 study of 100 illegitimate children born to mothers of below-average I.Q. showed a mean increase of 20 I.Q. points over that of their biological mothers after adoption and being reared in superior foster homes. This progress by the children has been deemed telling evidence against high heritability of I.Q.

Jensen shows in simple mathematical terms why the inference is invalid. First, assuming the fathers were of average I.Q., the midparent I.Q. is not 85.7 (I.Q. of the mothers), but 92.85. Making allowance for regression on the mean and for the fact that the adopting families were probably of significantly higher than average I.Q., the 20-point gap is in conformity with Jensen's estimate of heritability.⁶

These papers are well worth reading and having in permanent form in any library concerned with issues of race and anthropology. Jensen's sophisticated and impeccable techniques have brought the argument about the hereditary factor in racial I.Q. differences out of the realm of dissension and prejudice and into that of mathematical and statistical analysis.

NATHANIEL WEYL

THE INEQUALITY OF MAN

By H. J. Eysenck. Temple Smith, London. Pp. 288. Price £3.

This volume has two chief objectives. The first is to review the evidence for the considerable importance of genetic factors in the determination of human intelligence and a number of personality characters such as extraversion, emotionality and dominance. Professor Eysenck does the job with his usual competence and incisiveness. The coverage of the literature is thorough and up to date and even those who consider themselves well informed in this field are likely to find accounts of at least a few recent studies unknown to them. The general conclusion here is that genetic factors account for around 70 to 80 per cent of the variance for intelligence in advanced societies and also make a substantial contribution to a number of major personality traits.

The second purpose of the book is to point out some of the implications of these facts for social policy. The most important is simply that the egalitarian ideal is doomed to failure. There is no political programme that can make all individuals equal and the same applies to the average levels of intelligence in different social classes and certain racial groups in society. We cannot expect that the abolition of intelligence tests or of grammar schools will somehow abolish the fact that middle class children tend to be more intelligent than working class children, and tend to do better both in school and in life.

Rather than striving vainly to engineer an unrealistic equality between individuals and social groups, politicians and administrators responsible for social policy would do far better to recognise the existence of biologically determined differences and base their social policies on these.

⁵ Page 95 of original article.

⁶ Moreover, the orphanage children offered for adoption are generally the most attractive and the most intelligent ones.

For instance, in education we need a variety of different kinds of schools and curricula within schools, designed to cater for different levels and types of ability and personality. Similarly, in our attempts to raise intelligence levels we should do much better to direct our attention to the possibilities of drug treatments or other kinds of physiological attack, rather than attempt yet more remedial education programmes.

RICHARD LYNN

I.Q. IN THE MERITOCRACY

By R. J. Herrnstein. Allen Lane, London. Pp. 193. Price £2.50.

There is considerable overlap between Professor Eysenck's book and that of Professor Herrnstein. The latter is concerned only with intelligence and not with personality traits, and gives an excellent account of the chief theories of the structure of intelligence and the arguments for its substantial genetic determination. Herrnstein is also concerned with the social implications of the genetic basis of both individual and class differences in intelligence. One of these is that the technological progress of industrialised societies is likely to bring about widespread unemployment among low intelligence groups, since they will lack the intelligence to handle the machines which will be increasingly employed for physical work. Another is that with advances in affluence and equality of opportunity, the social class structure is likely to crystallise into a system of several different castes with differing biological endowments which will be inherited down the generations. However, such an eventuality may be tempered by regression effects. These are by no means perfectly understood in human beings so that it is difficult to evaluate the plausibility of Herrnstein's predictions here.

This volume makes an excellent addition to the rigorous analysis of the inherited basis of human intelligence and personality and its social implications. We are living in a time when these subjects encounter intense ideological opposition whose strength is comparable to that met by Galileo and Darwin. No doubt truth will eventually prevail, as it did in these historical controversies, and to this end this book makes a valuable contribution.

RICHARD LYNN