

The Processes of Ongoing Evolution. G.W. LASKER, ed. Wayne State University Press, 1960, 122 pp. \$3.75.

These are six essays most of which deal with the "micro-evolution" of monogenetic serological factors. By this is meant frequency changes of these factors in populations caused by mutation selection, hybridization and random genetic drift. Evolution is usually understood as a gradual trend in a series of biological changes in a species in time that is irreversible in the narrow sense of the term. To apply the term micro-evolution to pendulum frequency changes of multiple allelic monogenetic serological factors seems pretentious.

Evolution is evident in gradual polygenetic morphological trends in time as is seen in the paleontological record. It involves many generations. It is not evident in two generations in what is thought to be a trend in monogenetic serological variation. It is the mode of variation of characters which is important in evolutionary studies not the knowledge of the mode of inheritance.

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A Racial Study of the West Nakanai. D.R. SWINDLER. Museum Monographs: New Britain Studies, W.H. Goodenough, Editor. Philadelphia: University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 1962. 89 pp., 9 plates, 21 tables. \$2.00.

This monograph is the result of the author's research in New Britain on physical anthropology of the West Nakanai. It includes observations on a sample of 269 individuals. These observations include anthropometric data, skin colour, eye colour, Pilous system, palmaris longus, peroneus tertius, and serology.

The anthropometric data are analyzed in detail according to Penrose's size and shape analysis. In addition to the very complete study of the Nakanai pheno-type, variability, and Melanesians problems in general, there is also included a very interesting chapter on Melanesian racial history. The bibliography is an exhaustive compilation of the relevant works on the area.

This study is most excellent of its kind in that the author has analyzed his data most comprehensively. He has well used a variety of data, i.e. morphology, somatometry, and serology, and he has not drawn far fetched conclusions beyond the evidence presented.

The format, plates, tables and maps indicate the same care and painstaking typical of the other parts of this work.

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