

Race Coupled With Bias

Race, to Dalhousie Zoology professor Doctor Dixie Pelluet, is a rather unpleasant word to anyone but a biologist, "since it is no longer thought of in the genetic sense but presently is connected with religion, color and prejudice."

Dr. Pelluet was speaking to a group last week in room 218 on the biological basis of race.

"Heredity," she said, "along with a slow evolution of species, must be an accepted thing. On the basis of heredity, one can define a biological species."

She concerned herself with the ordinary mendelian population, where "gene pools" would not change much on environmental factors. The difference, she said, between Africans and Europeans is the color of their skins. Yet, this is a minor factor. Few genes are involved in the isolation of races. Difference in skin color is unaccountable.

Consequences Great

"If the geographical barriers break down," said Dr. Pelluet, "the genetic consequences can be great. In random mating within its own confines, gene pools widen, variety is produced, and different types evolve. There is no such thing as a pure race—always inter-mixtures."

Fifty years ago, anthropologists defined races by measuring the bones of the body. In this way were racial characteristics developed. Such is not too useful to the biologist, since recent investigation has shown that Homo sapiens species of man could be broken down on the basis that every person has three groups of blood. If isolation breaks down, all three blood groups are distributed.

Concluded Dr. Pelluet: "Culture—the sum total of the product of the human being in his environment—will change as the population gets smaller. It is not an inherited characteristic."



Portrait by Bissell

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Dal Debaters Lose To SMU

Dalhousie debaters early last week lost their stand on Canadian acceptance of nuclear weapons to a split decision with St. Mary's team of Fred Sutherland and Tom Kelleher.

Attempting to negate the resolution that Canada accept nuclear weapons on her territory were Dalhousie students Bill Sommerville and Keith Jobson. Claiming Canada was in no position to contribute any worthwhile effort to the defence of North America, they argued

ed the nation should refuse all association with weapons that could not aid her defence, and were in themselves capable of mankind's destruction.

The Dal team asserted Canada was militarily dependent on the United States.

Were Canada to accept the physical responsibility for nuclear weapons on her territory, they argued, she would ultimately be forced to give up "crying for disarmament" in the United Nations.

Most Russian Churches Closed Since Soviet Rule

Dr. Peter Waite says only one-fifth of the churches that were open 45 years ago are still open in the Soviet Union.

The Acting Head of Dalhousie's History Department made the comment in an address to students in the series on Christianity and Communism, sponsored by the Student Christian Movement.

Only between 14 and 15 thousand churches were still open and the nature of the congregations tended to suggest the Church was dying in Russia, he said. Dr. Waite, who has visited the USSR, said those attending services were mainly "middle-aged ladies in black kerchiefs."

The Church was "very curtailed" in its powers to evangelize, he claimed. It was not allowed to have any control of education and anti-religious propaganda was being taught in the schools. The result was that many of the youth were enthusiastic followers of Communism.

Russians, Dr. Waite commented, were "all or nothing" about many things. In religion they were the same way. Russia did not change, he emphasized. The people and the problems had remained characteristically the same since the Revolution. And the Russian Church has always been more or less "under the thumb" of the state.

Significant Factor

Dr. Waite said the Christianization of the Russians was a significant factor in the history of the Russian Church. He said the patriarchy was a political appointment and the Holy Synod, which replaced

it in 1720, had also been under the control of the Empire.

However, he said the political question of who controlled the organization didn't matter. The Russian Church was interested "in religion, purely and simply," he said.

The history professor said from the very beginning of the Revolution the Church had been in a bad position with the Bolsheviks. In 1919, the first move against it was to take over its money however, there was no real attempt to obliterate it.

Churches Closed

With the first five-year plan, anti-religious text books were published and many churches were actively closed. Christmas and Easter were abolished and the work-week changed so that Sunday was no longer a day of rest. However, these measures served to strengthen the Church, Dr. Waite claimed.

But the Communists have since given up any real attempt to exterminate the Church, he said.

The Russian Church had always been patriotic, Dr. Waite emphasized. During Second World War the Church was "a rallying force" he said. It was "unquestionably" behind the state.

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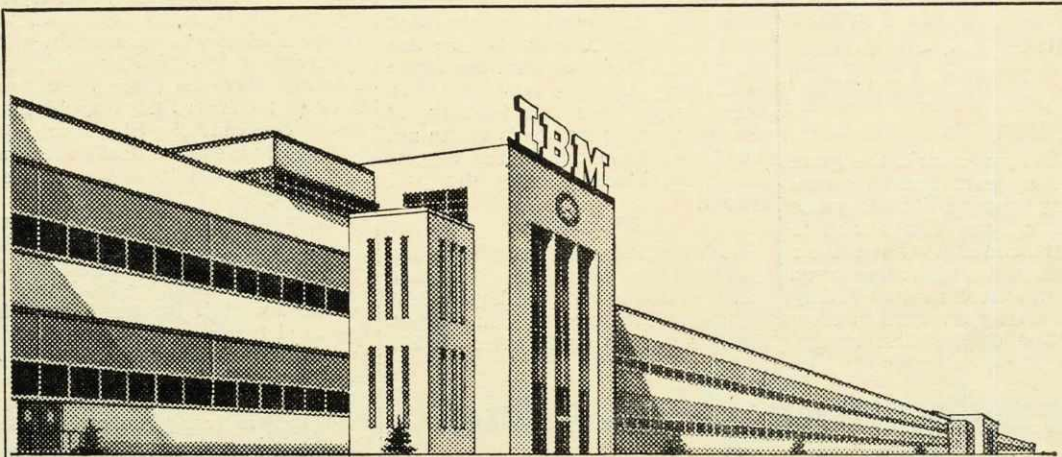
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