

Measuring 'Miscegenation': Eugenics and the Legacy of Slavery

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HEREDITARY GENIUS:

AN INQUIRY INTO

ITS LAWS AND CONSEQUENCES.

BY

FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S. ETC.

London:

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1869.

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Reframing Eugenics and the Targets of the Eugenic Gaze

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION MEMOIRS.

Statistical.

*"INVESTIGATIONS IN THE MILITARY AND ANTHROPO-
LOGICAL STATISTICS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS."* New
York, 1869.

PRESENTED BY THE

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION.

Reframing Eugenics and the Targets of the Eugenic Gaze

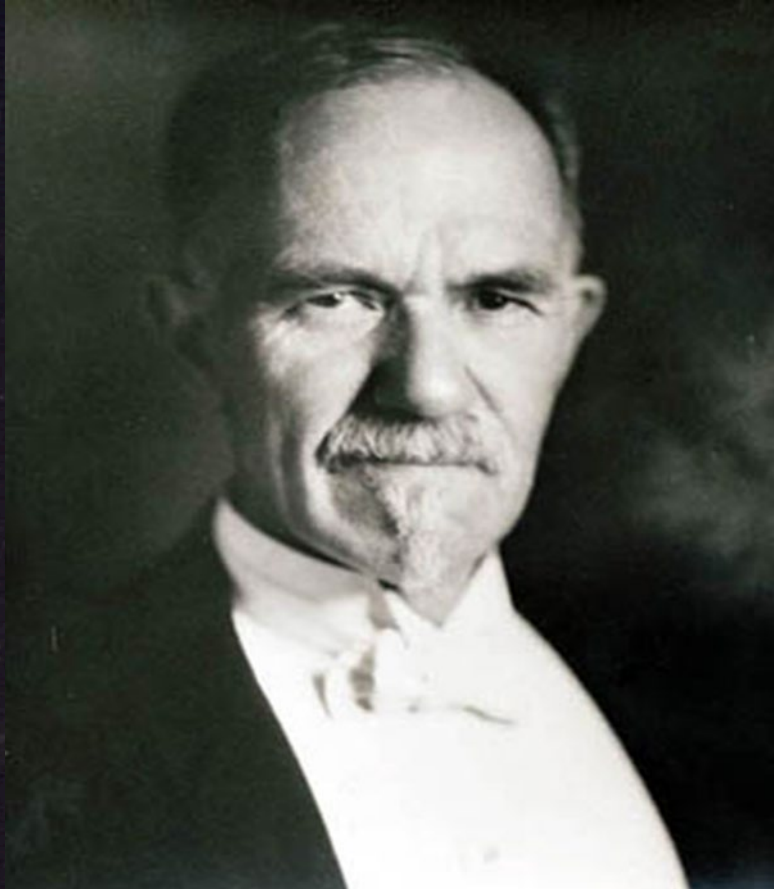
MEASUREMENT OF MEN¹

C. B. DAVENPORT

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The progress of modern science has been marked by measurement. Until fifty years ago, the study of man was largely below the requirements of modern science, through lack of measurement, but in this respect rapid changes are now occurring. In this new era of measurement we see the study of man taking on an ever more scientific aspect. The early measurements were naturally those of the size and form of the human body. Quetelet named the science of anthropometry and gave it a body of fact by the measurement of a series of persons of both sexes from birth to maturity. At about the same time, B. A. Gould had the idea of measuring the soldiers at the end of the Civil War. This he was able to carry out upon only a relatively limited number of individuals, but his work stands as the first large effort to measure the variation in form and proportions of young men of various national stocks coming from different parts of a large territory. For a considerable period after Gould particular attention was paid in this country to the changes in height and weight in children of both sexes in schools by Bowditch

Charles B. Davenport (1866-1944)

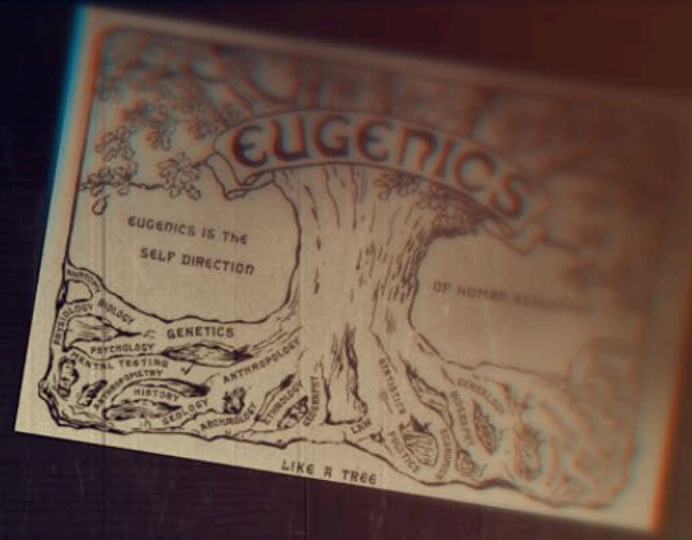


Caroline Bond Day (1898-1948)



“A study of Some Negro White Families”
published by Harvard University in 1932,
based upon her Master’s thesis.
Captured anthropometric measurements
of mixed race families of high
achievement.

CAROLINE STEWART BOND DAY
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BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXIX.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1843.

No. 2.

THE MULATTO A HYBRID—PROBABLE EXTERMINATION OF THE TWO RACES IF THE WHITES AND BLACKS ARE ALLOWED TO INTERMARRY.

By J. O. Nott, M.D., Mobile.

Estwick and Long, who are high authorities, in their histories of Jamaica, both assert unhesitatingly, that the male and female Mulatto do not produce so many children together, as if they were united respectively to negresses or Europeans. I am, too, credibly informed that these facts are verified in New Orleans, and that in that city there are many instances where families have run out so completely as to leave an estate without an heir to claim it.

Heredity of Skin Color in Negro White Crosses (1913)

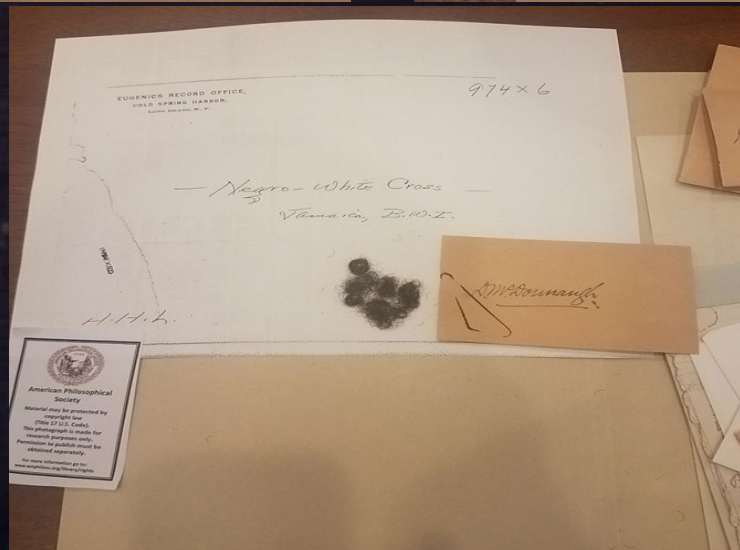
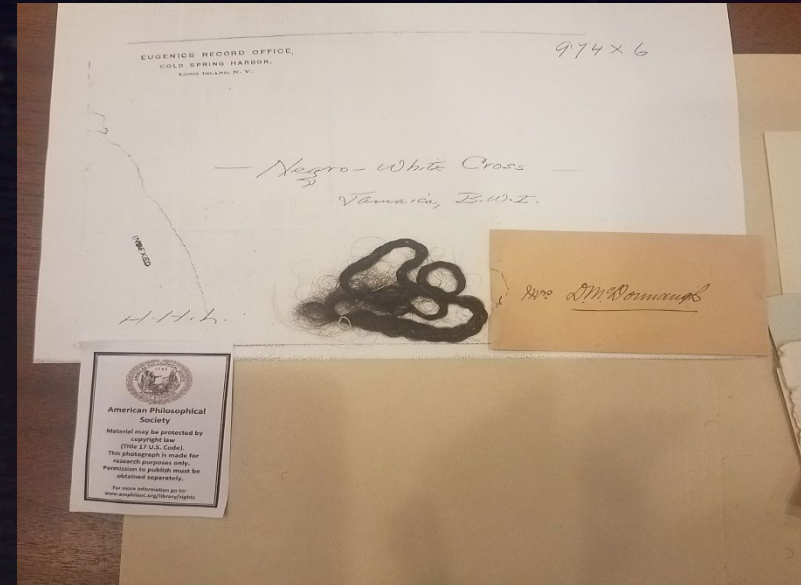
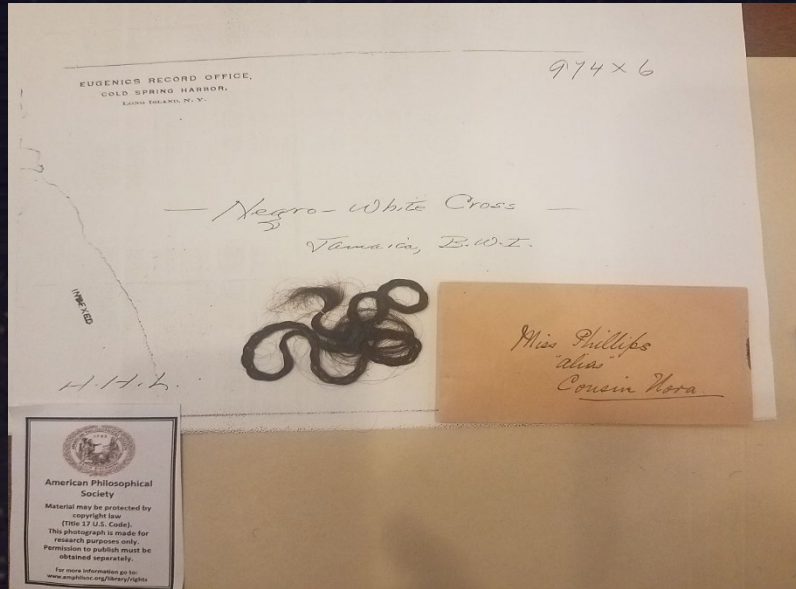
H. FECUNDITY OF HYBRIDS.

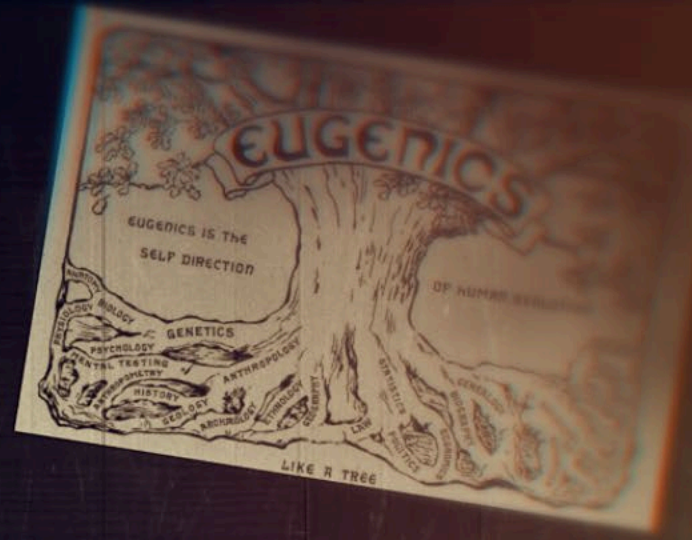
There is an ancient tradition that mulattoes are unprolific. This was affirmed by Long (1774) who stated that he had never heard of a union of two mulattoes in Jamaica that was prolific; and Nott declared that mulattoes, at least of South Carolina, were unprolific. Broca's (1864) great argument against the unity of the human species was based on the assertion that human "hybrids" were sterile. This matter has been considered recently by Fischer (1911, 1912), who finds that the number and vigor of the hybrids of the Boers and Hottentots has not suffered any decline. In such hybrids "die durchschnittliche Zahl pro Ehe ist 7.7; die Sterblichkeit ist nichts grosser in Verwandten- und Insuchtsehen, der Gesundheitszustand um nichts schlechter."

Our own records afford no support to the view of the inferior fecundity of the black \times white crosses. Even F_1 crosses are fully fecund. Referring to table 19 we find four certain fraternities of F_1 hybrids. They have respectively 12, 1, and 9 children. Case B XXI is particularly instructive. The mother had 11 children at an average interval of less than two years. Nine of these were seen by the field worker; none had died! Taking table 19 as a whole, there are 88 children to 21 matings or an average of 4.4 children to a fraternity; which

returning from France in 1919. The negro has, on the average, many advantages in physical qualities over the white. He is much less apt to suffer defects of the spine; and goiter, obesity, deaf mutism, and deafness and most important diseases of the eyes and nasal fossae and throat are less common among them than among whites. The mulattoes show much of the excellent physical qualities of the negro. On the other hand, the mulattoes show an extraordinarily high rate of tuberculosis and the venereal disease rate is several times higher than among the whites. The mulatto, however, is more restless, on the whole, than the negro and less easily satisfied with his lot. This is possibly due to a disharmony introduced by the cross. In the United States the colored population has a crime rate of between two and three times that of the white.

Investigations into “mulatto” hair





Race Crossing in Jamaica (1929)

RACE CROSSING IN JAMAICA

BY

C. B. DAVENPORT AND MORRIS STEGGERDA

IN COLLABORATION WITH

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INEZ DUNKELBERGER STEGGERDA, Smith College

and many residents of the colony of Jamaica

Advisory Committee on the Investigation

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Thank you!

