

THE COLOUR BAR

ORIGIN AND INFLUENCE OF COLOUR IN MAN

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Everything in the Universe has its own particular colour, every chemical combination has its own permanent shade of colour. So reliable is this continuity of colour that astronomers, when making investigations as to the composition of the stars and planets, base their calculations on the colours as seen through the spectrum and telescope.

Since the introduction of wireless, everyone has become, more or less, acquainted with the fact that everything vibrates. Sound, we already knew, was accompanied by vibrations of great speed, and that change of speed gave a different tone. The same is true of colour; variation of speed means a variation of colour.

The discovery of the Yellow Ray and its influence on the germination of the seed of plants, suggests that the sun's rays played an important part in the commencement of life on this planet, and had there been no variation of colour, colour perception could never have been evolved in our vision.

Reaction to colour vibrations is found in very low forms of life. We know that fish can discriminate between several colours. Some can change their external colouring to harmonise with their surroundings. Many hundreds of experiments have proved that insects also know their food by colour.

All life has two sets of nerves, sensory and motor. From the few primitive nerves in insects, we find a gradual increase in complexity right up to man, and notwithstanding the millions of years of evolutionary development, colour has consistently been associated with the muscular system, due probably to the fact, that the motor nerves were used to bring about the chemical vibratory change needed to alter the colour of the external covering of the fish or animal when avoiding an enemy.

This nerve association is still manifested in mankind, as when a severe nervous shock affects the colour of the hair.

ORIGIN OF THE COLOUR SYSTEM.

There is nothing new under the sun, says the scientist; or as the student of heredity says, we cannot inherit anything that was not existing in our parents. These two statements are in no way contradicted by the evolution of a colour sensory system, for cells were already existing; it was simply a *specialisation* of cells and nerves, through reaction, over long periods of time, to colour vibrations in the environment.

In the embryo the brain commences to grow at the top of the spinal cord, then it extends forward and backward along the base, then it grows upward. The colour centre in the brain is situated in the base, over the eye. It can be seen marked on any phrenological diagram of the brain. Is that not where we should expect to find the centre, seeing how early in the evolutionary stage the colour sense commences to function?

BLOOD AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH COLOUR

In the European peoples there are two extremes of colour, the fair person known as the blonde, and at the other end the brunette. As they vary in colour, so they vary in character, and in liability to disease. From the blonde to the brunette we get a continuous gradation in shades of colour, brown being the medium. In the blonde the arterial blood predominates, in the brunette the venus blood dominates, in the brown there is a balance between the two blood systems. With the blonde there is a large consumption of oxygen, and the respiratory organs are strong, giving a desire for an outdoor life. This type is fickle, lacking the ability to stop at one thing very long, is changeable but optimistic. On the other hand, the brunette has more stability, takes life more seriously, is given to study, and tends to be pessimistic.

The difference between the brunette and the coloured peoples, is not race or nationality, but simply a gradation of colour. It is not caused by the sun; true, the sun plays a part, but it would not turn a blonde into a brunette. The blonde could not stand the oppressive atmosphere in hot countries. The coloured peoples are the result of natural selection; the environment selected, generation after generation, those in whom the venus blood predominated.

If one notes the effect of exposure to the sun on a blonde it will be noticed that there will be a blistering, redness and perhaps freckles develop, not so with the brunette.

CUSTOM AND SEX SELECTION

Two thousand years ago and later, the Romans found England, France and Germany, peopled by light, golden and red-haired people. No one will claim that the changes in colour have been due to the sun and weather. We know that in France for many years, "grey heads", as they were called could not find a partner, so they died out almost all over the country. Custom, more than any other influence, tended to eliminate the blonde. Quite recently a discussion was started in the English press as to which were in the majority, and it was generally agreed that the brunette leads.

Undoubtedly the dark brown hair with the arterial blood visible under the skin is the ideal, for it shows a balance between the two bloods. Nature is at her best when there is a balance of the forces concerned.

COLOUR AND THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM

That there is some relation between the two is seen if we observe the hair : in the light haired people we may find length, but it will be thin and weak. As the colour deepens we shall find a gradual increase in quantity, thickness and strength. The facial expression will show a gradual change from the carefree expression of the blonde, to one of patient earnestness, and frequently grave and sad, the latter being often expressed in the Negro's songs. With these there will be manifested a slow steady energy with great endurance.

If the coloured people were a different race from the white, we should expect to find colour in the fixed side of heredity, but colour is not fixed in any people, it is not fixed in individuals; illness, shock or age may cause a loss of colour.

The colour of the skin is due to "cell specialisation", cells that absorb chemical combinations which protect the body from the destructive rays of the sun. Colour is variable, as is form, size and quality of organization.

All the evidence proves that nature has not raised a colour bar; there is nothing to fear from inter-marriage, if there is the needed affinity.

The "colour bar" has been raised by the capitalists and their journalistic hirelings, for the purpose of keeping the peoples of the world divided, for while they can fan the flames of race hatred, and keep the "nationalist bogey" alive, they are able to exploit them all.

Knowledge of the origin and nature of colour should make for harmony between all peoples, which would exist had it not been for fear of the invisible forces of nature, which led to the evolution of the magician, then the priest and his religion on to the ruling classes of today.

After all the centuries that have passed we have the mysticism of the ages condensed into Roman Catholicism.

Let it not be forgotten that the ruling classes of England have been the leaders, for hundreds of years, in oppressing, even exterminating native peoples. Let the people of England take the lead in stopping the killing, torturing and otherwise oppressing of their sisters and brothers in other lands, and also remember that we all sprang from one type and are still one type, with modifications. There is no greater difference between the brunette and the black, than between the blonde and the brunette.

J. Humphrey.

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