IT is possible to begin the story of contemporary American racism from an historical reference.

The widely known reference publication, *Encyclopedia Americana*, gives detailed information about Calhoun, a statesman of the United States of the 30's and 40's of the last century.

"Mister Calhoun," it is said in the encyclopedia, "was an attractive personality and was of unimpeachable character."

Of the statesmanship of Mister Calhoun we learn only, that he feared quarrels on the question of slavery and that he strove to cut short all discussions on that subject.

*The Encyclopedia Americana* silently passes over one extremely curious episode in the biography of the "attractive personality." In 1844 England, supported by France, turned to the government of the United States with a protest against slavery and a proposal to free the Negroes.

The position of Calhoun in the role of secretary of state was embarrassing. The talk did not deal with internal dissension, which in keeping with the information of the encyclopedia he strove to restrain, but about direct pressure from without. The mind and "unimpeachable character" of Mister Calhoun were brilliantly revealed in his answering note. He appealed to science which, in the person of the anthropologist, Morton, and the archaeologist, Gliddon, obligingly stood on the side of slavery. Negroes, it cynically said in the note, are a special race distinct from white people. Therefore, there is no basis for changing their legal position.
In their time the phantasies of Morton, Nott, Cope and other anthropologist-racists rendered a service to the American slaveholders. They dragged in the notorious "facial angles" and all possible anthropological indices in the capacity of reasons for the benefit of teaching about "superior" and "inferior" races.

But very few believed in that nonsense. Science with irrefutable clarity showed that all races comprise one family and that they stand on one level of biological development.

The first scientific studies, dedicated to the origin of man, clearly showed that racial signs are of insignificant importance.

Darwin considered racial differences so unessential that he did not find it possible to explain their origin by natural selection. Darwin hotly defended the idea of the unity of the human race. With the development of natural history the absurdity of reactionary teaching about the inequality of races became all the clearer and more evident.

**Mendelism Defends Racial Ideology**

At the present time anthropology and archaeology do not comply with the ideas of the political leaders of contemporary America. Capitalism now turns to the substitutes of natural history for the support of racial ideology.

Mendelian pseudo-science concerning inheritance stands on guard for the interests of reaction.

Mendelian genetics rearmed racism. It does not need the obsolete methods which Nott and Gliddon made use of a hundred years ago searching for signs of an "inferior race" in the negroes. In general, Mendelian genetics refers patronizingly to bodily structure evaluating it as a secondary, temporary shell.

In the presentation of Mendelists the inherited matter of man constitutes the true substance of man as well as of all living organisms. This inherited matter is a kind of "immortal, unchangeable substance" latent as it were in the innermost portions of the nucleus in the minutest grains—genes.

Conditions of existence—the actual causes of development—in the eyes of the Mendelists have significance only as regards bodily changes, which are in no manner reflected in the genes. The immutable "units of life" as one American geneticist expressed himself about genes, forming unnumbered combinations by cross-breeding, are summed up in the end in breeds, races, varieties and species.

A stable combination of genes, that is what race is in the imagination of Mendelists. They maintain that every organism receives its racial marks as a result of the union of the sexual cells of its parents and transmits them unchanged in new combination to its progeny.

In the course of forty years from the start made by the chief American Mendelist, Thomas Morgan, American geneticists have studied heredity in the fly Drosophila. Thousands of experiments have been performed on the unfortunate fly, doomed to breed in laboratory test tubes. As a result of these studies, the fly population in the test tubes has been declared a model of the processes of the formation of species and in a simplified manner of the development of races, varieties, and species.
From the test tubes of the Drosophila-experimenter the preachers of racism brazenly began to ladle out their arguments in sociology and in political economics, in anthropology and ethnography, in biology and medicine.

The history of the development of Mendelian science (principles) of heredity demonstrates with unprecedented obviousness the bond of science under capitalism with the entire decadent ideology of bourgeois society.

Let us open the well edited and profusely illustrated issues of the *Journal of Heredity*, the official organ of the American Genetic Association. As we page thru issue after issue, we perceive how year after year that trend was developed in biology, what goals it pursued, what problems it set up and how it attempted to solve them. The magazine is dedicated to the problems of heredity; it is called upon to develop the Mendelian trend in biology and it fulfills its task. Mendelism is represented in all its aspects in the magazine: material is printed concerning the genetics of plants, animals and man. But it is worthwhile to look into these articles for from behind the shoulder of the author there glares out upon the reader the wildly fanatical features of a ruffian of the Ku Klux Klan.

The geneticist, Gates, published a book, *Origin of Man*. In a review which was published in the *Journal of Heredity* it is written that the Polynesians, Melanesians and Negroes emerged as human races at a comparatively late period. In other words, the absurd statement that the black races quite recently emerged out of a simian st-ate and that they develop independently from the other human races is presented to the reader as a "scientific fact."

"According to the conclusions of the author," it is stated in the review, "the more recent races did not emerge simultaneously from a single root, but they descended from various forebearers. That point of view is extremely imperative in the present time."

That reactionary delirium, contrary to all contemporary science concerning human races, meets the most benevolent attitude from the point of view of the magazine.

The evaluation of the "work" of Gates is given in an exaggeratedly academic tone. But its political implication is absolutely clear. What if such "science" fully satisfies the American obscurantists offering absolving arguments to the people guilty of lynching negroes? Indeed for those beasts Gates' book is "extremely timely" and even "extremely indispensable."

The policy of racial discrimination finds an unequivocal prop in Mendelism. The doctrine of the immutability of heredity carefully protects the interests of the imperialists.

**Prof. Muller in the Service of American Racism**

The *Journal of Heredity* gives a not less favorable review to the book of Muller, Little and Snyder, "Genetics, Medicine and Man," published in 1947. It is natural that the official publication of the American Genetic Association should enthusiastically praise the work, one of whose authors is Muller, leader of contemporary Mendelian genetics. The attention of the reader is attracted not only to the "scientific" content of the book, but also to the unequivocal political deductions which the author of the review makes on the basis of Muller's "scientific" conclusions. Without the least hesitation Muller places the stamp of equality between the fly population of the tests tube and the human races!
The reviewer insistently recommends the book of Muller and Co. to the reader where, as it were, "the complete basis for belief in the fact that only the offspring of the white people can be the people of the world" is given.

Professor Muller freely makes whatever statements he pleases about his non-involvement in the propaganda of racism. His hypocritical declaration became known to all the world on his withdrawal from the body of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in connection with the discrediting of Mendelian genetics in soviet biological science. His clumsy ruses deceive no one. The president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR gave A worthy reply to the learned-obscurantist. And if in the future Professor Muller ventures to make a denial of his participation in the propaganda of racism, then his adherents, making definite political conclusions out of the dry academic thesis of the author, unmask him.

**Mendellism is Against Democracy**

The American *Journal of Heredity* is the organ of militant obscurantism leveled against science and democracy. Fascist scholars, preachers of racial inequality, champions of racial discrimination pursue their occupations in that magazine with the blessing of Muller, member of the editorial staff.

"At that time when democratic society still reluctantly acknowledges racial differences," it was possible to read in the *Journal of Heredity* in 1933, "all genetics on the whole leads to the conclusion, that racial mixtures weaken and destroy valuable human stocks. Vital power is increased only in the pedigreed races by the process of prolonged selection. Racial mixture in the majority of cases leads to racial degeneration."

It is superfluous to comment on that statement. The concept of Mendel-Morganism is reflected in it as in a drop of water.

Over a period of decades Mendelian genetics speaks again and again of the incompatibility of its "scientific" outlook with the ideals of democracy.

The Mendelists insistently repeat that "people are born unequal." From that thesis there arose the reactionary perversion of science — the pseudo-science about the improvement of the human species, which received the name of eugenics.

During the course of a half century many dozens of books were published in America setting forth the basis of this pseudo-science. Societies of eugenists were formed, conventions and international congresses were called. Disputes took place about the methods of the propagation of the "human species." But the essence of the movement remained unchanged, straining to justify the domination of the "chosen."

"Democracy, or at least, contemporary democracy," writes the reactionary "scholar," Freeman, "bases itself on the fact that all people are born equal. Eugenics is based on the observed fact that people are born completely unequal. Eugenics strives to further the superior branches and to lop off the inferior."

What does Freeman understand by "superior" and "inferior" branches? It is not difficult to understand. The "superior" are of course the privileged classes, the "inferior" — the people performing manual labor.
The Bloody "Practice" of American Mendelism

American eugenists paint the growth of mental diseases in dark colors. 14,000 imbeciles and epileptics were registered in the year 1904. Within twenty years that figure was tripled. And five years later that figure comprised 60,500.

What about the fact that, that quarter of a century—1904-1928—included the crises of 1907 and 1921 and the world war, catastrophes which accompanied the falling of the living standard and the impoverishment of the workers struggling against the capitalistic powers? Mendelists have nothing to do with those "external factors." The accumulation of the genes of mental diseases, that's the thing, as if that were the cause! The problem was—the elimination of the "unfit" from reproducing themselves.

But the appeal to science did not satisfy the Journal of Heredity. "Do you know how much it costs you to maintain these people?" it asks the reader. "$742,145,956, three quarters of a billion; that is the expense of maintaining that army."

In the literature of the American eugenists propaganda for the sterilization of the "hereditarily unfit" assumed an insistently maniacal character. A degrading and mutilating operation is advertised as the sole means of saving the nation from degeneration.

Eugenist Leon Whitney in his book, "The Case for Sterilization," shows that the pure "germ plasm" was present, it may be, only in the first American colonists. In the future, as a consequence of uninterrupted racial crossing, it was only burdened with unnumbered harmful genes, leading to the degeneration of the nation. The author proposes that no less than 10,000,000 Americans must be prevented from reproducing by means of sterilization.
That wild delirium would be funny if it were not so nauseating. And not only nauseating but horrible. For, on the basis of that propaganda a law regarding sterilization has been accepted and is in effect in more than thirty states in America.

An acquaintance with the contents of that law is sufficient in order that a person can perceive perfectly clearly against whom it is directed.

Side by side with the epilectics, imbeciles and the mentally ill, the law, accepted and in operation in the State of California, provides for the sterilization of some categories of persons who had been sentenced to prison terms.

The Voice of the Master

The other day a Mr. Forbes, a businessman of the city of Worcester, Mass., wrote to the editors of the Journal of Heredity.

"The lower classes," it is written in the letter, "set off by an imperfection of mind, reproduce themselves faster than the superior classes gifted with great intelligence. The time has come for the advocates of eugenics to let us know of their existence and to finally decide to take some steps of a practical character!"

The matter, as said, is clear. The esteemed businessman perfectly realizes that the entire eugenics program is directed against the "inferior classes," whose activity in the period of the crisis of 1929-1933 caused, evidently not a little to-do for the gentlemen capitalists. That was a difficult time in the history of America. 12,000,000 unemployed were a sad witness of the great crash of the economy. Poverty, impoverishment, hunger manifested themselves in full voice. The billionaires trembled before "hunger marches."

The great eugenists, the president of the eugenists association, Campbell, the president of the American Eugenics Society, Perkins, eugenist Little, and the "venerable" eugenist Whitney, promptly responded to the voice of their master.
With alacrity they affirmed that the improvement of the nation is impossible without barring the "unfit" elements from reproducing. They pointed to the necessity of strengthening the "leading class of the nation."

Eugenics is the only field where Mendelian genetics has found an outlet for itself into "practice." That practice is opposed not only to elementary humanity and to human emotions; it finds itself in crying opposition to the data of modern science, which refutes immutable heredity, proves the possibility of transforming the species of organisms by means of change of the conditions of life. But the masters of bourgeois science have nothing to do with facts. They stimulate Mendelian genetics simply because of the fact that it, perverting the facts, explains them in favor of reactionary politics.

There is a constant demand for the genetics of man. And it is possible to be surprised with what ease the American "fly-lovers" gathering wisdom exclusively in test tubes with Drosophila make deductions and conclusions conformable to man.

Mendelian genetics by belief and right supports reaction in its struggle against democracy. It creates a myth of the burdening of contemporary society with the fabricated genes of all possible kinds of defects and diseases. To the man in the street it suggests a sense of the impotence of science and fear before the invented inner nature of man—immutable heredity. It frightens the American petty bourgeois class with the nightmare of degeneration. It demands the realization of a manhating eugenic program.

For all that, the American reactionaries forgive Mendelian genetics for the fact that, from all its so-called "researches" about the mutability of the color of the dewberry or about the heredity of coat color in swine, agricultural practice has not received a single workable suggestion.

There can be no doubt that of the cru.nhs which Carnegie and Rockefeller spare to science from their billionis, stolen from the American people, not a little also falls through to the share of Mendelian genetics.

A Science of "Fear and Terror"

Contemporary bourgeois literature, art. science are permeated by a depressing feeling of helplessness before the elemental forces of nature and the chaos of the capitalist world. It is a culture of "fear and terror." Mendelian genetics does not disturb the general tone.
Inherited matter, locked as in a box in a mortal, bodily case, is a favorite theme of popular books on the genetics of man.

"The tremendous majority of changes of gene-mutations," says the leader of the American geneticists, Muller, "are harmful in their action, since they illustrate the action of blind forces on a complex organism."

Mendelian genetics underlines the helplessness of man before these blind forces.

"The genes are immutable," say the Mendelists, "and man is unable to change them." Only once in many thousands of years does every gene change. In that regard the Mendelists acknowledge as possible causes of such changes special, super-powerful factors — X-rays, cosmic rays, unusually sharp changes in temperature.

Over these causes man has no control. The world is pierced by cosmic rays, is shaken by molecular forces raging during sharp changes of temperature—all that, in the opinion of Mendelists, burdens the "germ plasm" with an accumulation of various genes, bearing the beginnings of new monsters. "We are all burdened with countless hopeless mutations," says Muller.

The immutable genes, inherited from an unending series of forebears and ready to reveal themselves in every new generation with deformities, growth of defects, diseases, create uneasiness in the reader and uncertainty in the stability of existence.
Mendelian Genetics and Fascism

With incredible cock-and-bull stories about "living space" the German fascists strove to excuse their invasion into neighboring countries. We find the same rigmarole about the threat of "over-population," which has nothing in common with science, in American biological literature. That is a clear expression of the tie of Mendelian genetics with the ideology of imperialism.

The world will never forget the crimes committed by German fascism.

Fascism in its atrocities and violations relied on pseudo-scholars who prophesied a "new era" as if it were beginning with the coming of Hitler to power. The political program of fascism included in the role of an inalienable element the turgid delirium about races as the motivating forces of history.

German racism, in the person of its sycophants, Gunther, Fischer, Lentz, Just, vegetating in the Munich hinterland until 1933, rapturously greeted the Fascist coup d'etat in Germany. Racial political fascism, expressing its imperialistic nature, acquired the fervent support of obscurantists with scholarly callings. Among the number of "sciences" included in the elaboration of a "political biology" of fascism, Mendelian genetics stood in the first place.

Problems were placed before it—to develop the thesis of the hereditary basis of the racial nature of man, the thesis of the hereditary predestination of the "superior" and the "inferior" races, the thesis of safeguarding the "Nordic," "Aryan" races from degeneration.

Dozens of editions beginning with the popular magazines, "The Nation and the Race," "Restored Nation," "New Germany" and ending with the ultra-scecial "Heralds" of all the possible natural sciences bent that thesis in every possible way, poisoning the mind of the German individual with the venom of racism.

In the second world war fascism appeared armed not only with planes and tanks. Its intellectual weapons were the delirious phantasies about the "right" of the German race, the "race of masters" to subjugate and oppress the "inferior" races, that is, the Latin, Slav and other peoples. Those phantasies found their defenders among the German Mendelists. They made the attributes of the "superior" and "inferior" races the favorite theme of special pseudo-scientific researches. The years went by, the trash of racial propaganda was accumulated and the facts were insolently perverted.

They are carefully gathering all that rubbish together beyond the ocean and, hurriedly repaired, they set it up in the service of racial obscurantism. American racism basing itself on Mendelian genetics is entering into open warfare with the slogans of democracy. It is currently poisoning the mind of the American petty bourgeois, engendering in him a bestial chauvinism, racial intolerance and contempt for the culture of other peoples.

Having covered themselves with infamy in the eyes of all progressive mankind, it is impossible for the American Mendelists to conceal their bloody relationship with the Hitler scholar-beasts.

The sympathies of the American Mendelists towards the Hitlerite racial policy were, in the first instance, expressed in American genetic literature in the Journal of Heredity.
Mendelian genetics, eugenics, racism and the propaganda of imperialism are at the present time inseparable.

That is why the destruction of MendelMorganism at the August session of the AllUnion Academy of Agricultural Sciences of V. I. Lenin aroused such hatred in all the reactionaries in politics and science throughout the entire world.

At that session Mendelian pseudo-science — the expression of the downfall and the decay of bourgeois culture — demonstrated its complete bankruptcy. It had nothing to demonstrate as proof for the support of its reactionary teaching about immutable inheritance. In the light of the tremendous practical and theoretical achievements of advanced Michurinist science it became perfectly clear that Mendelian genetics does not have the right to call itself a science. It was revealed before the eyes of the entire world that Mendelian genetics with its pompous verbal chaff conceals nothingness, a wasteland, lies. It became even more evident that the development of the pseudo-science was the result of the tremendous interest of the forces of international reaction in it.

Unmasked as defenders of the reactionary tendency in science, as the enemies of progress and democracy, the Anglo-American Mendelists attempt to conceal their defeat with attacks upon Michurinist science and with slander of the learned Michurinists. The announcements of the withdrawal of professors Muller and Dale from the membership of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR testifies to the fact that the role of servants of imperialism does not embarrass them.

The report of T. D. Lysenko and the decisions of the session are studied with great interest by the friends of soviet culture throughout the entire world. The victory of Michurinist science is accepted as the triumph of progressive forces over the forces of reaction.