THE USE OF FINGER-PRINTS IN QUESTIONED PATERNITY SUITS

THE HEREDITY OF PAPILLARY PATTERNS. Sándor Ökrös, M.D. (Director of the Forensic Medicine Institute, Medical University, Budapest). Translated by A. Herczeg. 1965.

The title of the book is misleading and, consequently, the contents are largely disappointing from a genetical point of view. Dr Ökrös does not mention any of the advances in our knowledge of the inheritance of dermatoglyphic characters made in the last 20 years. Moreover, the book is limited to fingerprint characteristics. The author's interest is the use of fingerprints in questioned paternity suits. The contents, therefore, are primarily of legal interest.

Dr Ökrös describes the results of his work in the field over a period of 18 years and uses a series of cases of questioned paternity. The descriptions include his method of studying finger-prints from cellophane dactylograms and his method of classifying finger-print patterns into 95 types, abbreviated to 60 for practical use. Unfortunately, we still do not know how such patterns are inherited. The most recent and interesting of the author's findings is that the detailed ridge structure of a child shows some of the characteristics of both parents. From a study of the minutiae on homologous fingers it is claimed that the parentage of a child can be definitely established. The method has been used successfully in well over 1000 paternity law-suits. Minutiae findings in 29 cases are given in detail with illustrations. However, of approximately 40 parental minutiae only one or two, seldom three, are found in the offspring. The author stresses that "much effort and great experience are needed to assess the findings" and he admits that in a few instances his conclusions do not agree with evidence from blood groups.

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BEHAVIOR-GENETIC ANALYSIS. Edited by Jerry Hirsch. McGraw-Hill Series in Psychology.

The last few years have seen a rapid increase in the number of behavioural scientists carrying out research into the genetics of behaviour. *Behavior-genetic Analysis*, a multi-author book which grew out of a conference on behaviour genetics held at Stanford University during the summers of 1961-62 is mainly concerned with the part being played by the more biologically orientated among them. The text is divided into four main sections with a final chapter by the editor, Jerry Hirsch.

In the first section, "Behavior and Evolution", Caspari distinguishes two approaches to the study of evolution, the study of mechanisms causing evolution to occur and the tracing of phylogenetic changes caused by evolution. Both approaches are represented here. Washburn and Shirek, in what is necessarily a rather speculative contribution, discuss the importance of tool use in the evolution of bipedalism among the primates suggesting that the human brain may have evolved in response to the selection pressures