

[Free pdf] Physician to the Gene Pool: Genetic Lessons and Other Stories

## Physician to the Gene Pool: Genetic Lessons and Other Stories

*James V. Neel*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*

DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#884966 in Books 1994-03-28Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.57 x 6.50l, .0 #File Name: 0471308447457 pages | File size: 42.Mb

**James V. Neel : Physician to the Gene Pool: Genetic Lessons and Other Stories** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Physician to the Gene Pool: Genetic Lessons and Other Stories:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I came across this book by accident, while at ...By Mike ReardonI came across this book by accident, while at sea and starving for something to read.That was 15 or so years ago and I still remember it well. This is a fascinating book about the genetics of our race, told from the perspective of a physician who travels to remote places on earth to study people who have not had the opportunity to blend their DNA with much/any outside influence."Consanguinity" and the effects of which on primitive groups of people in isolated and/or remote areas is one of the themes explored by Dr. Neel.Interestingly, almost all of the professional reviews I have read about this book attempt to distance themselves from some of the conclusions the author makes regarding the alarming trajectory of human population growth, so if you are not afraid of being less than politically correct when it comes to science, this book is worth reading.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Yanomamo stories - worth a buck used for sureBy Hibernating HummingbirdFour stars because the book could have used some editing - the 457 pages are in relatively small print according to my memory of reading the book. I no longer own a copy.The couple of fun facts which stuck in my mind are related to "poverty".Somewhere in the book Neel remarks that at least in the rainforest-tribes he studied the women had a remarkable ability to RETAIN SALT, which is especially needed for making a baby. In the rainforest where our chimp ancestors evolved, minerals tend to be leached away, therefore salt is scarce. Fast-forward to present-day where of course the taste-arms-race oversalts everything, from Neel's

viewpoint it is obvious why the organism doesn't quite know what to do with the superabundance. I forget which tribe and it is possible that it might not have been this book (the salt-story I'm SURE about), but someone also remarked on some "poor" tribe in which the men have this funny callus on their shoulder since their idea of a fun game is ultra-running with a 50-or-so-pound-log on their shoulder. The take-home message is that the human body was optimized for a hunter-gatherer-amount-of-exercise and scarcity-of-food. I have a couple of Afghanistan/Iraq war books and the soldiers are typically remarking how the subsistence-farmer-natives can usually run rings around them - the "poor" natives have a healthier lifestyle! Neel was also involved in follow-up-studies of the Japan A-bomb-survivors. This was before all the research on DNA-repair-mechanisms, so he reports on being puzzled about the relatively few obvious mutations in the next generation.

A fascinating scientific autobiography integrating personal anecdotes and observations from Neel's field work in Japan and Brazil. Presents a unique view regarding the future of human genetics in a world already confronting the genetic implications of population control, genetic counseling, gene therapy as well as the diagnosis and treatment of genetic disease. Suggests a set of genetic measures and priorities at some variance with those currently being emphasized.

From Publishers Weekly Neel's outspoken autobiographical account is bound to stir controversy. A geneticist and professor emeritus at the University of Michigan, he went to Japan in 1946 to assess the genetic effects following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; his six-year study found minimal genetic damage in children born to radiation-exposed survivors. Neel's 1960s fieldwork among the Yanomama tribe of Brazil and Venezuela led to his finding that periodic outbreaks of highly abnormal white blood cells--perhaps due to viral infection--occur in people worldwide. He calls for a global program of population control, coordinated by the U.N., with the goal of limiting couples to two children. He also advocates the widespread availability of the birth-control drug RU-486, as well as prenatal diagnostic services with the option of abortion in cases of severe genetic disease in a fetus. And he supports nuclear power, lamenting "public near-hysteria" over what he claims to be the greatly exaggerated risks of radiation. Photos. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Throughout his distinguished career, Neel has conducted research in several unique areas. In addition to major investigations of sickle-cell anemia and consanguineous marriages, he has pursued extensive studies on Japanese bombing victims to determine if elevated exposure to radiation resulted in genetic changes. Neel also spent many years examining remote South American Indian tribes to analyze genetic trends in populations who were virtually untouched by modern civilization. In this work, the author uses his vast scientific and medical background to speculate on the genetic future of the human population; he includes some strong opinions on difficult choices we will soon be forced to confront. This is a valuable work, both for its detailed study of human genetics and its thought-provoking analysis of population genetics; however, considerable prior knowledge of basic genetics is essential. Recommended for science collections in academic or large public libraries. - Tina Neville, Univ. of South Florida at St. Petersburg Lib . Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Neel combines scientific autobiography with the story of the field of medical genetics and does a first-rate job with both--a first-rate job however, that will oblige the reader to slog through some rather technical sections to appreciate fully. The autobiographical parts show how Neel developed his interests in science and medicine, who his mentors were and how they affected him, and how his thought processes grew and led him into different areas. Much of his working life has been spent overseas--in Japan with the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, in Africa studying sickle-cell anemia, and in South America investigating the gene pools of tribal groups. The parallel narrative on the development of genetics covers both individuals and concepts. Neel's descriptions of genetic details are clear, and his reasoning and suggestions for improving "Genetic Medicine" for both the world and the individual are cogent and sensible. His dry humor and enjoyable use of words add much to both of the book's narratives. William Beatty