

societies, every woman has every child she possibly can, and there is a strong evolutionary pressure, a selective pressure on the population.

The men make a living mostly by hunting polar bears and seals. The trouble is the polar bears hunt the men as much as they hunt the polar bears, and the hunters who aren't awfully good at the job get killed and eaten by the bears. So the men who survive have four or five wives. And this is a constant pressure toward improving the breed, which—

Mr. DADDARIO. It improves the polar bears too, then.

Dr. REVELLE. They improve the polar bears too, that's right. [Laughter.]

Undoubtedly it does. This competition between the men and the polar bears probably from an evolutionary point of view is good for both of them.

But the other kind of genetic pressure among the polar Eskimos, of course, is in breeding. There are no fear of them that any bad trait would tend to be strengthened by in breeding, if it was not wiped out by this very, very severe pressure on survival.

What we find in general, among the different human groups who live around the Arctic, is that somebody has studied the teeth of one group of Eskimos, while somebody else has studied the blood types of another group, or the kinship relationships of a third. But nobody has ever taken a single group of these people and tried to find out all there was to know about them in terms of their genetics, in terms of how they have adapted to their environment, in terms of their food and their ideas and the interactions between their ideas and their physiology. And that is what we hope to do in cooperation with the Russians, the Canadians, and the Scandinavians.

Mr. DADDARIO. Dr. Revelle, what happens to these people when they are brought into a different kind of a civilization? Are they able to adopt?

Dr. REVELLE. The Eskimos do pretty well. They are very tough and very bright.

Mr. DADDARIO. I am talking about this isolated 250.

Dr. REVELLE. I don't think they have ever been taken away from where they live. But the Alaskan Eskimos have, and they turned out to be wonderfully skillful in working with machinery. They can take apart or put together a tractor or a bulldozer from its parts. They can keep these machines going long after the white man has given up. They are awfully good with their hands and mechanical things. So they are able to compete pretty well with the white man, at least in the polar regions and the subpolar regions.

Another one of our major projects is of quite a different kind. This is a study of airborne biological materials, all the way from insects, to spores of fungi, and wheat rust, to pollens that give people hay fever and other allergies. Here it is quite clear that one needs to have a worldwide cooperative program. With such things as wheat rust that starts in one place, the spores or the genetic material get carried up into the air and transported long distances. When they fall down again they infect wheat somewhere else.

Similarly with insects; they get carried by the air currents very great distances and in many cases the diseases they carry, human