

WHY NEGRO'S SKIN IS DARK

(Told Bits.)

The baby negro is not born black. Even so long ago as 1765 La. Cat noticed that the newly born negro is of a reddish color. This observation has since been frequently confirmed, and it is now pretty widely known that, though the baby negro begins to follow in the footsteps of his parents as regards color within a few days after his birth, yet at the moment of birth he shows a disposition to aspire toward the Caucasian race, being white, or at worst red, in hue. It is generally assumed that the chief of all the causes of a negro's blackness is the hot sun beneath whose more or less vertical rays he is doomed to live. There is, however, a physiological condition of the skin which differentiates that organ from the integument of the white man. In other words, there is a difference in what is known as "pigmentation."

"The negro," says a scientist, "possesses a more developed vascular sudoriparous system than we do." In other words, he has more and larger sweat glands, and they are more liberally supplied with blood. By means of these he perspires much more abundantly. This condition is possibly a contributory factor in his blackness. It is an important element in the investigation to remember, however, that the blackest of all black people are almost invariably found under certain very definite climatic conditions. That is to say, they are found where great heat, strong light and much atmospheric moisture are in combination. For example, "the blackest negroes in Africa are those who live in Guinea, where the greatest amount of rain annually falls." But "the people who live in the dry section of the Nubian desert have red skins."