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Source: *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 8 (1879), pp. 254-260

Published by: [Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2841036>

Accessed: 15/06/2014 23:28

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DISCUSSION.

Dr. BEDDOE said, that in reference to Koumiss and its supposed anti-phthisical properties, he had once heard an amusing little speech from the great Skoda. A discussion was going on in the Vienna Medical Society, which somewhat reminded him of that famous one in the early days of our Royal Society. It was on the exemption of the Bashkirs from consumption, by reason of their drinking Koumiss; some explained it in one way, some in another. Then said Skoda, "Respecting these wretched Bashkirs, and how from phthisis, by reason of their Koumiss-drinking, altogether exempt they be; this night has very much been said, but for my part I most potently believe that, in addition to the other miseries of their God-forgotten condition, they not only from phthisis are not free, but from it altogether as much as we, if not even greatly more, do suffer."

The DIRECTOR read a paper contributed by Mr. SANDERSON on "Polygamous Marriages in South Africa."

POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGE *among the KAFIRS of NATAL and COUNTRIES AROUND.* By JOHN SANDERSON, Esq.

Having, a few years ago, been led to make some inquiry into the numbers of children, with their respective sexes, born among the Kafirs resident in Natal or the countries adjoining, it may not be without interest for this meeting that I should communicate the results. The mass of facts collected is too small to warrant any positive general deductions, but small as it is, it will not be altogether without value if it suggest some line of further investigation for those who may be enabled to pursue it.

Even in Natal, I need hardly say, no official statistics of this character are obtainable, and my information is, therefore, derived from inquiries among intelligent natives, whose replies, in reference to their own families, and those of their connections, were generally given so readily and precisely that I am prepared to accept them without hesitation, as fairly correct. One or two cases in which any doubt was exhibited as to the sex of the children, I have not taken into account at all.

The number of households to which the following figures relate is fifteen, in five of which the wives were two each; in four they numbered three; in two they were four; and in two they were five in number; while in the two remaining, the husband had six and eight wives respectively. It is to be noted, however, that in probably none of the cases can the number be

regarded as final ; by which I mean that so long as the head of the household was alive, the number of the wives or the children might be added to ; and my figures must, therefore, be taken as subject to correction, which would not apply to cases where, the husband being dead, the numbers were absolutely complete.

Of the fifteen households, two only had the children of each sex in equal number ; but the number of marriages in which this was the case was nineteen ; and taking individual families or marriages, the boys were in excess in twenty-five, while in ten their number was exceeded by the girls.

To look at the matter more in detail it may be advisable to set the figures forth at length, marking with a star each case where the child was known to be dead when the inquiry was made. The following households had—

TWO WIVES :

NTEMBA.

	Boys.	Girls.
First wife, b. g.	1 ..	1
Second wife, g.g. b.b. g.b.	3 ..	3
	4 ..	4

MPOPO.

First, b. g. b. g. g. b. b.* g.*	4 ..	4
Second, g.* g.* g.* b. g.	4 ..	1
	8 ..	5

UMANDHOLE.

First, b. b. b. b. g. g. g.	4 ..	3
Second (order uncertain)	2 ..	1
	6 ..	4

MBONDWANA.

First, b. g.* b.* b. b. g.	4 ..	2
Second, g. b. g. g. g.	1 ..	4
	5	6

NOKAKWA.

First, b. g.* b. b. g.	3 ..	2
Second, b. g. g.* b.	2 ..	2
	5	4

Five households, having each two wives had, boys	28
girls	23
Total	51

We have here five households, in four of which the male births exceed the female, the boys being 24 in number, and the girls 19—an excess of more than 25 per cent. Of the ten wives, however, four have an equal number of children of each sex; with five, the boys preponderate, while one only has more girls than boys. One wife only of the ten has twins, and she has them at every birth; first two girls, then two boys, and finally a girl and a boy. In six out of the ten families a boy is the first-born; in three the first-born is a girl; in one case my informant was uncertain.

Coming next to the households in which the wives were three in number, of which there are four, we find

THREE WIVES.

NKUKWANA.

					Boys.		Girls.
First, b. g. b. g. b. . .	..	..	..	..	3	..	2
Second, b. g. b. b. . .	..	..	..	..	3	..	1
Third, g. b. . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
					7	..	4

MTSHED.

First, b. g. b. g. g.	..	..	..	..	2	..	3
Second, g. g. b.	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Third, b. b. g.	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
					5	..	6

NDONGA.

First, g. b. g. g.	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
Second, b. g. g.	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Third, b. g. b. g.	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
					4		7

TONSI.

First, b. b. g. b. b. . .	..	..	..	..	4	..	1
Second, b. g.	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Third, b. g. . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
					4	..	3

Four households, each three wives, had boys .. 20

girls .. 20

Total 40

In two out of the four households the boys are in excess; in the other two the girls preponderate, although, taking the whole of the families together, the numbers are equal. Four out of the twelve wives have equal numbers of boys and girls; four have

more girls than boys, and four have more boys than girls. In nine cases out of the twelve the first-born is a boy. No case of twins occurs in these twelve families.

We come now to two households in which there are four wives each. In one household the children of each sex are equal in number, eight and eight respectively; in the other the boys number seven, and the girls five. The sexes are equal in three families, and in five out of the eight the first-born is a girl. In these two households of four wives each, there is no case of twins.

The figures are as follows:—

FOUR WIVES.

NONJIA.

				Boys.		Girls.
First, g. b. g. b. g. ..	..	..	..	2	..	3
Second, g. b. g. b. ..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Third, b. b. g. ..	..	..	..	2	..	1
Fourth, g. b. g. b. ..	..	..	..	2	..	2
				8	..	8

MPOGOPOGO.

First, b. ..	..	..	..	1	..	0
Second, g. b. g. b. ..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Third, b. g. b. b. ..	..	..	..	3	..	1
Fourth, g. g. b. ..	..	..	..	1	..	2
				7	..	5
Two households (each four wives) had				boys	15	
				girls	13	
Total					28	

We have next two households of five wives each, that is ten wives, three of whom have an equal number of boys and girls, and one only has more girls than boys, the boys being in excess with six out of the ten. The same number, six, but not the same women, have boys at the first birth, girls being the first-born to the remaining four. Here again, out of forty-three births, we have no case of twins.

The following are the details:—

FIVE WIVES.

GEBUZA.

				Boys.		Girls.
First, b. b. b. g. b. ..	.	..	..	4	..	1
Second, b. b. g. b. b.	..	..	..	4	..	1
Third, b. b. g. b. g.	..	..	..	3	..	2
Fourth, g. g. b. b. ..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Fifth, g. b. g. b. b.	..	..	..	3	..	2
				16	..	8

SUTSHANA.

	Boys.	Girls.
First, g. b. b. b.	3	1
Second, g. g. b. g.	1	3
Third, b. b. g. g.	2	2
Fourth, b. g. b. g.	2	2
Fifth, b. g. b.	2	1
	10	9
Two households, with five wives each, had	boys 26	
	girls 17	
	Total 43	

I have particulars of but one household with six wives, three of whom have boys and girls in equal numbers, and present no case of girls in excess, and no case of twins, as will be seen from the following figures. In four instances out of the six the first child born is a boy:—

SIX WIVES.

DUBUYANA.

	Boys.	Girls.
First, b. g. b. g.	2	2
Second, g. b. g.* b.* b.	3	2
Third, b. g. b. b.	3	1
Fourth, b. b. g. g.	2	2
Fifth, b. g. g. b.	2	2
Sixth, g. b. g. b. b.	3	2
	15	11
One household with six wives, had	boys .. 15	
	girls .. 11	
	Total 26	

The last household of which I have any details to lay before you is one which contained

EIGHT WIVES.

NYENGENYA.

	Boys.	Girls.
First, b. g. b.	2	1
Second, g. b. b. b.	3	1
Third, b. g. b. g. b.	3	2
Fourth, g. b. g.	1	2
Fifth, g. b. b. g.	2	2
Sixth, g. b. g.	1	2
Seventh, b.* b.* g.* g.*	2	2
Eighth, b. b. b. g. g.*	3	2
	17	14
One household with eight wives, had	boys .. 17	
	girls .. 14	
	Total 31	

In four families out of the eight the boys are in excess, in two the girls are more numerous than the boys, the numbers being equal in the remaining two. Girls and boys are born first in an equal number of cases, and here again we have no case of twins.

The five families in which twins are reported are (with one remarkable exception) not included in the above figures. They are as follows:—

					Boys.		Girls.
Njwaini, b. g.	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Ndangusa, g. g.	..	..	..	..	0	..	2
Loho, g.g.	..	..	..	..	0	..	2
Mkweba, g.* g.*	..	..	..	..	0	..	2
The exception is that of Ntemba, g.g. b.b. g.b.					3	..	3
					4	..	10

To sum up, and excluding the four families above named, in which twins occurred, and regarding which I have no further information, we have

Households	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Wives	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Wives having one child only	..	..	..	..	..	1	54
„ „ two children	..	..	..	..	..	4	
„ „ three „	..	..	..	..	..	10	
„ „ four „	..	..	..	..	..	20	
„ „ five „	..	..	..	..	..	15	
„ „ six „	..	..	..	..	..	2	
„ „ seven „	..	..	..	..	..	1	
„ „ eight „	..	..	..	..	..	1	54
„ „ boys and girls equal	..	..	..	..	..	19	
„ „ boys in excess	..	..	..	..	..	25	
„ „ girls „	..	..	..	..	..	10	
Total number of children 219. Total number of boys 121. Total number of girls 98							
Average children to household	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.6
Each wife has on an average, children	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.05
The first-born is a boy, in cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
„ „ girl „	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
The order is uncertain in	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
The record of deaths may be incomplete, but so far as it goes, it shows that out of fifteen households five have lost children, namely:—							
	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

					Boys.		Girls.
Mpopo	..	..	..	..	1	..	4
Mbondwana	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Nokakwa	..	..	..	..	0	..	2
Dubuyana	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Nyenganya	..	..	..	..	2	..	3
					5		11

I have no figures of any value relating to monogamous marriages among the Kafirs. It will be observed that of the 54 women to whom the figures given relate, one only had twins, and as we have seen, she had twins at each of her three confinements. One native, whom I questioned on these subjects, remembered five cases of twins, and knew of others, the particulars of which he had forgotten. He had never known a case of triplets. In the case of twins, infanticide was formerly practised in the Zulu country, though, I am informed, not in Natal, the least and weakest being put to death. This was formerly the practice among the chiefs as well as the common people, the object, doubtless, being to keep up the strength of the stock, and the alleged exception in reference to Natal, in reality is only intended to apply to the country since it has been under British rule.

In concluding these imperfect notes upon a subject of considerable interest, I have only to express my regret that they should be so incomplete, notwithstanding my endeavours to enlist the aid of several missionaries, whose opportunities of collecting statistics were much better than my own. I am still, however, in hopes that I may be able to obtain, at some future time, figures which may afford a better basis for generalisation than the few data which I have had the opportunity of laying before you on this occasion.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. LEWIS thought the paper of great value, so far as it went. and hoped that they should receive more particulars on the same subject from the Author. There was an impression that polygamous marriages produced a larger number of female than male children, which this paper went to show to be erroneous. The analogy of our cattle, sheep, and poultry, would also go to show that impression to be erroneous, as they were particularly polygamous, yet produced equal numbers of each sex, our food supply consisting in fact of the superfluous males. It would be interesting to know, however, whether the mortality amongst male Kafirs was very much greater than amongst the females, because, if not, the births being equal and polygamy being the rule, many men must have no wives at all, which would lead to very unsatisfactory social conditions. It would also be well if the Author could state positively whether the births mentioned by him were all that had occurred in each family, or whether he had only given the numbers and sexes of children living at the time of his inquiry, or which had survived for some years the infant mortality which, as reported, was remarkably small, being possibly such as to alter any conclusions that might be drawn from the proportions of sexes and other particulars given.

London: Edward Stanford, 55, Charing Cross;

d. 55. Charing Cross; S.W.

AN ETHNOLOGICAL MAP OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

BY REV. S. J. WHITMEE.

A.	Atoll	P.	Port
a.v.	Active Volcano	P ^t	Point
B.	Bay	R.	Reef
B ^k	Bank	R ^k	Rock
C.	Cape	Sd.	Sound
Ch.	Channel	Sh.	Shoal
Col.	Colonized	U.C.	Upraised Coral
G.	Guano	V.	Volcanic
H ^r	Harbour	V.I.A.	Volcanic Island and
I & A.	Island & Atoll		Atoll where the two forms
M ^t	Mountain		are found as at Ponapi I.

Uninhabited Islands are written in *Italic Characters* thus 'Motane'

Heights are expressed in English Feet.
Soundings in Fathoms.

Stanfords Geographical Establishment.