On the Stature of the Inhabitants of Hungary

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So the *teri* climbed up, and ate the bananas, and threw down the skins to the rat.

Then said Mr.* Rat, "Let us go to the reef," and there he found a *vasua* (gigantic oyster). He called his friend, "Come and take this food." The *vasua* was open, and Mr. Teri put in his foot to scratch out the flesh, whereupon the *vasua* shells closed upon him, and held him in a vice. He cried out "Alas! Sir Rat, I perish!" The rat said, "That pays you out for the bananas. You ate the good of them and made me wretched with the worthless part. Stay there and be drowned when the tide makes. As for me I am going to return alive to the shore."

I cannot resist the temptation to add the following "moral," appended to the foregoing fable by one of my Fijian students. I translate from his MS. now before me.

The *teri* is the rich man. The rat is Lazarus. The bunch of bananas represents the lordly state of Dives, while Lazarus was wretched. The reef is death. The *vasua* which caught the *teri* is the everlasting fire to which Dives went. The land, Heaven is its name.

Dr. E. B. TYLOR then read a paper "On the Affinity of the Melanesian, Malay, and Polynesian Languages," by the Rev. R. H. CODRINGTON. The discussion upon this communication was adjourned until the next meeting.

The following paper was read for the author by the Assistant Secretary:—

On the STATURE of the INHABITANTS of HUNGARY.
By JOHN BEDDOE, M.D., F.R.S., M.A.I.

SOME attention has of late been paid to anthropometry in Hungary, particularly by Dr. Körösi, and by Dr. Scheiber, of Bucharest. Of the results of their investigations some have considerable interest. For example, Körösi, operating on the recruiting returns for the whole of Hungary, found that the several races of that country stood in the following order, reckoning for the tallest to the shortest. First the Vends on the Styrian frontier, then the Germans, then the Croats, then the Slovaks and Serbs, then the Jazyges (people of Jaszag in Central Hungary, a Turanian race), then the Jews, then the Rumanians, then the Magyars, then the Ruthenians (in the Bukowin I suppose) and lastly the Kunen (query Kumanians).

* *Ra*, the plural sign.

Between the tallest and the shortest of these races he finds an average difference of 32 millimeters, or about $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, which is perhaps less than one would have expected.

The mean stature of recruits from 19 to 22 years of age is put by Körösi at 1,631 millimeters (5 feet 4·2 inches). Scheiber calculates it at 1,646 millimeters (5 feet 4·8 inches). The real mean seems to me, on Scheiber's data, to be about $1,650 = 5\cdot5$ inches very nearly, and if we allow 17 or 18 millimeters for subsequent growth, which is probably not above the mark, the fully grown Hungarian soldier is about 1,668 millimeters or 5 feet $5\frac{2}{3}$ inches in stature. The number excluded for insufficiency of stature is about 9 per cent., the standard being fixed at 1,554 millimeters, about 5 feet $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Dr. Scheiber's paper in the "*Archiv für Anthropologie*" is of great importance. Referring to Körösi's statistics, he points out the greater value of observations dealing with the entire male population of military age; and he accordingly bases his conclusions upon the whole number of young men of twenty years, examined by the recruiting authorities, whether passed or not, in five counties of Western Hungary, viz., Budapesth. Stuhlweissemburg, Raab, Wesprim, and Tolnau. These he divides according to their nationalities into Magyars, Germans, Slavs, and Jews; he also separates the cities of Budapesth, Stuhlweissemburg, and Raab from their respective counties, but in this second analysis takes no account of race.

In stating his results he gives the mean and not the average. Neither method would indicate the full actual stature, as the recruiting officers set down the measurements in Austrian inches, omitting fractions. It is probable that the officers, except at the point where the question of exemption for insufficient stature comes in, and where the interest of the examinee renders him anxious for accuracy, will assign to each inch a few individuals who are really below the line, but approach it within a very small fraction: thus, against the heading 64 inches will be placed the names of men who measure 63·9 inches, as well as of those who reach 64·8 inches. The true average, and the true mean, would probably be about 64·4 inches. Of these considerations Dr. Scheiber takes no heed; and in every instance he simply states the number of millimeters corresponding to the Austrian inch at which the largest number of persons is registered. This method leads to certain incongruities, and usually gives a result below the true mean and the true average.

I have endeavoured to ascertain from Dr. Scheiber's statistics, the exact mean, the standard which would be overpassed by exactly 50 per cent. of the persons measured. The numbers, though considerable, are not sufficient to yield very regular

curves; but I believe I shall be found pretty close to the mark in every case. This mean will, I believe, correspond pretty exactly with the true average stature.

That of the—

Germans	is	1,646 met.	=	64·8 inch.
Jews	„	1,638 „	=	64·5 „
Slavs	about	1,636 „	=	64·4 „
Magyars	„	1,636 „	=	64·4 „

The addition of 17 or 18 millimeters or about 6 or 7 inches, to these figures, would probably give, approximately, the average stature of full-grown adults. In making this addition I follow Quetelet: Roberts finds no such increase in young Englishmen of the upper classes, but these Hungarians are mostly peasants, and growth may probably continue in them for some years beyond twenty. The results will be: for the German adult, 5 feet 5½ inches, for the Magyar and Slav, 5 feet 5 inches.

Of very tall men (over 1,790 millimeters) the Germans yield the most, next the Jews, then the Slavs, and the Magyars the fewest. Of very short men (under 1,474 millimeters) the Jews have the fewest, next the Germans, then the Slavs, and the Magyars most.

Dr. Scheiber in Hungary finds the inhabitants of cities taller than those of rural districts, as Quetelet did in Belgium, whereas the rule in England is the reverse. Thus:—

Budapesth	city	1,650,	country	1,633 m.m.
Stuhlweissemburg	do.	1,662	do.	1,640 „
Raab	do.	1,642	do.	1,630 „

Race may have a little to do with these differences, for the Germans and the Jews are probably most numerous in the cities. But it will not sufficiently explain the phenomena, for the citizens of Budapesth, and still more those of Stuhlweissemburg, are taller than they ought to be, even if they all belonged to the tallest (the German) race. Quetelet thought the Belgian peasants continued to grow longer than the citizens; and this is probable, but not proven. The peasants of Hungary live in villages, and are not scattered over the country.

Certain anomalies remain to be noticed, indicating that other factors besides race and aggregation may influence stature. If it were not so, the most Germanic and the most urban counties should yield the highest averages; the most Magyar and rural ones the lowest. But this is not exactly the case. Stuhlweissemburg, which has the tallest men, is one of the most Magyar and least German counties; and the city is comparatively small.

The stature of the Hungarians may appear low when compared with that of the British in general; but it is not so in comparison with that of some other peoples of Western Europe, of the Bretons, for example, or the Ligurian race in the Apennines. Even in England, in large towns and manufacturing districts, at least, if not in limited rural tracts, communities may be found who descend below the average stature of Hungary.

DECEMBER 13TH, 1881.

HYDE CLARKE, Esq., *Vice-President, in the Chair.*

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following presents were announced, and thanks voted to the respective donors:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- From Dr. HOFFMAN.—Zuni and the Zunians. By Tilly E. Stevenson.
- Dr. J. EVANS.—Der Urmensch. By Wenzel Krizek.
- From the AUTHOR.—Grottes de la Vallée du Petit-Morin. By Joseph de Baye.
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- Die Colonisation Afrikas (A) Die Franzosen in Tunis. By Dr. Emil Holub.
- First Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey, 1880. By Clarence King.
- From the BERLIN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Zeitschrift für Ethnologie, 1881. Heft 5.
- From the GERMAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Correspondenz-Blatt, November, 1881.