Antropometria Militare by Ridolfo Livi

Review by: A. H. Keane

The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 26 (1897), pp. 73-75

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2842334>

Accessed: 15/06/2014 09:20

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

TASIKO: ISLAND OF EPI. N.E. OF TONGA.

Arimamemi nage ꞑa teke peni. Soṃa ki e ki wa. Soṃa naurarena imi. Natneṃania soṃa a taꞑa yomarava, e sipa nage ꞑa a ntaꞑa mava e peni.

“Antropometria Militare.” Risultati ottenuti dallo Spoglio dei Fogli Sanitarii dei Militari delle Classi 1859–63, eseguito dall’Ispettorato di Sanità Militare per ordine del Ministero della Guerra; Incaricato della Direzione dei Lavori, Dr. Ridolfo Livi, Capitano Medico. Parte I, Dati Antropologici ed Etnologici (Rome, 1896).

With the American War of Secession, the study of man, both from the physical and mental side took a new departure, which has already yielded most satisfactory results, especially in those states where the conscription is a permanent institution. The example set by the Washington Government of publishing carefully prepared digests of the medical and anthropological data supplied by the examination of over a million recruits summoned to arms during the sixties naturally found numerous imitators elsewhere, and thus was rapidly developed a new branch of anthropological science commonly, though somewhat inadequately, called “Military Anthropometry.” Almost every civilised state has now its medical or sanitary bureau attached to the War Office, where are collected, digested, and from time to time published, all kinds of medical and anthropological statistics derived from the inspection of the conscripts or recruits that are annually either rejected or drafted into the service. The great value of these summaries is due in part to the large number of “subjects” dealt with, and partly also to the generally high character of the inspectors, all specialists, whose efficiency is thoroughly secured by the wide field of observation placed at their disposal.

Thanks to this combination of favourable conditions, the sumptuous volumes prepared by Mr. B. A. Gould for the United States Sanitary Commission (1869), and by Dr. J. H. Baxter for the Washington War Department (1875) have been followed by a whole series of similar publications issued from time to time by the Governments of Bavaria, Saxony, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, and several other European States. Amongst these official contributions to anthropological studies a high place must be assigned to the compilation under notice, which has been issued by Dr. Ridolfo Livi, on the staff of the Sanitary Bureau attached to the Italian Ministry of War. We learn from a preliminary notice that the work has been published with the consent of the War Office by the directors of the *Giornale Medico del Regio Esercito*, and that it is “the final outcome of the patient labours of the military sanitary body, which has for many years been charged with the compilation of the sanitary publications.” Special reference is made to the services of the Medical Commissioner, Colonel

Salvatore Guida, who is credited with the idea of having originated and given effect to the project of issuing the valuable periodical statistical records which are summarised in the present work.

The first part of this elaborate compilation deals exclusively with strictly anthropological and ethnological statistics, which are conveniently arranged in three separate divisions. First comes the Text, which, in seven chapters, discusses the various aspects of general and military anthropometry; and here the inadequacy of the term "Anthropometry" is at once made evident. These comparative studies are by no means limited to "measurements" of the human body, such as were made on the Roman conscripts even under the Republic. Besides stature, weight of body, cephalic indices, width of chest, and so forth, attention is also paid to the colour of hair, eyes, and skin, to the structure of the hair, the face, nose, gnathism, and similar physical characters. Extensive observations are even recorded on the correlation of these characters both to each other and to the varying conditions of the environment and of the social position of the conscripts from all parts of the kingdom. Thus copious materials are afforded for studying the influence of altitude above sea-level, of rural or urban districts, of the industries and other pursuits on the stature, complexion, colour, and quality of the hair, and so on. In the last chapter of the Text we have a critical survey of the whole ground, the recorded results being taken in geographical order from north to south (Piedmont to Calabria), concluding with the islands of Sicily and Sardinia. Corsica, unfortunately, is excluded, as belonging politically to France, though it would certainly have been most convenient to have the French returns for that Italian island introduced for comparative purposes.

In the second division are comprised the STATISTICAL TABLES, by far the largest and most valuable section of the work. There are altogether twenty-three of these tables, making 420 large 4to pages, in which are systematically disposed the details of the above described characters for every commune, circle, and province of the kingdom, as determined by the inspection of the conscripts for the five years 1859-63.

There follows in a separate volume, the third division, which is entitled an "Atlas of the Anthropological Geography of Italy," and which may be briefly described as a graphic representation of the results of the statistical details comprised in the second division. Here are brought together a large number of coloured maps of the peninsula and islands, on which the relative proportions of the indicated characters in the different provinces and districts are clearly shown by the usual device of corresponding shadings. These extremely useful and admirably executed maps are supplemented by a series of diagrams, in which the stature, cephalic index, correlation of colour of eyes to colour of hair, correlation of stature to colour of hair and cephalic index, variations of structure of the hair, complexion, height of forehead, shape of nose and mouth according to stature, are indicated by a simple linear

graphic method for all the chief administrative divisions of the kingdom.

Some of the broad generalisations, which seem justified by an attentive study of the rich materials embodied in this monumental work, are extremely interesting. Thus, speaking generally, stature, the fair type, the cephalic index, red hair, florid complexion, aquiline nose, and full chest, are all found to decrease steadily in the direction from north to south. Specially noteworthy is also the astonishing uniformity of the physical characters in Sardinia. Here there would almost seem to be no averages, but only extremes on one side or the other throughout the whole extent of the island. These primitive and long secluded populations, probably the direct descendants of early neolithic man, slightly modified by later interminglings, present no greater diversity in their physical characters than the Andamanese islanders themselves. Hence in the various series of geographical maps of the Atlas, that of Sardinia is invariably distinguished by the deepest shadings, that is, those which mark the extremes either way. Thus the great bulk of the natives have the shortest stature, the brownest eyes and hair, the most dolichocephalic heads,¹ the swarthiest complexion, the narrowest chests of all the Italian populations. "They consequently form quite a distinct variety amongst the Italian races, which is natural enough when we remember the seclusion in which this island has remained for so many ages." (Text, p. 182.)

But perhaps enough has been said to indicate the general character, contents, and importance of this first contribution of the Italian Government to the new-born science of "Military Anthropometry." Some day, though it is to be feared not in our time, the English War Office may also perhaps be induced to bestir itself and take an active part in this supremely useful work.

A. H. KEANE.

"The Principles of Sociology, an Analysis of the Phenomena of Association and of Social Organisation." By F. H. Giddings, M.A., Professor of Sociology in Columbia University. Macmillan and Co. 8vo. 12s. 6d. net.

"The time has not come for an exhaustive treatise on Sociology. Nevertheless . . . there are principles of Sociology, and they admit of logical organisation. The present work is an attempt to combine the principles of Sociology in a coherent theory. Believing that Sociology is a psychological science, and that the description of society in biological terms is a mistake, I have endeavoured to direct attention chiefly to the psychic aspects of social phenomena. Association and social organisation I have attempted to explain as consequences of a particular mental state,

¹ It is shown in my "Ethnology" (p. 149) that the first neolithic peoples of West and South Europe were long-headed and not round-headed, as is commonly supposed.