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The races of Transcaucasia

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large extent the foundation of geology, inasmuch as a geologist must study processes now in action before he can understand the manner in which rocks, now forming the Earth's surface, have been formed.

On the other hand, the existing surface features of the Earth can only properly be understood when viewed in relation to their geological structure. From this point of view geology is the foundation of physical geography. The range, shape, and character of these surface features are determined by the nature of the rocks and by the manner in which these rocks are arranged. Familiar illustrations of this point are afforded by the escarpments and valleys of England and France. It is equally apparent in the more complicated structure of mountains. The rocks of mountain ranges and their flanking hills are often contorted and inverted, so that the apparent succession is not the real one; but even here the surface features are equally controlled by the manner in which the rocks now lie. The existing surface of the land is almost entirely due to denudation; the manner in which this acts and the results developed vary with the nature and "lie" of the rocks.

The soils of a district have mostly been produced by the weathering of rocks, etc., at the surface. The soil, and the facility for obtaining water, have determined the original settlement of an area. The land divisions consequent on such early settlement have been equally determined, in many parts, by geological structure.

The discussion which these papers introduced contributed nothing of importance to the elucidation of the question.

THE RACES OF TRANSCAUCASIA.

By V. DINGELSTEDT,

Corresponding Member, R.S.G.S.

CENSUS.

THE Transcaucasian Statistical Committee has just issued a very substantial work on the population in Transcaucasia, containing figures appertaining to every nationality, every creed and every class of society, as also to their distribution in towns and villages. We see from it that in Transcaucasia thirty-five different nationalities can be distinguished, composed of thirteen or more races or family-groups, such as the Slavonian, German, Latin, Pelasgian, Iranian, Hindu, Semitic, Kartvelian, Finnish, Turkoman, and Caucasian strictly so called. The total number of the population in Transcaucasia is estimated at 4,702,898 (men 2,549,969, women 2,152,929). Subdivided according to their nationalities, they are distributed as given in the subjoined table, where their relative strength is expressed in percentages:—

Russian,	2·60	Tat,	2·65
Bohemian and Slovak,	0·02	Talyshin,	1·07
Pole and Lithuanian,	0·07	Kurd,	2·13
German and Swede,	0·19	Ossetian,	1·63
Moldavian,	0·03	Armenian,	19·96
Greek,	1·18	Gipsy,	0·02
Persian,	0·23	Hebrew,	0·73

Chaldean (Aïssor),	0·05	Khvarshin,	0·03
Georgian,	8·11	Khunsal,	0·02
Tushin,	0·12	Kaputchi,	0·05
Pshav,	0·20	Kasikumykh (Laki),	1·02
Khevsur,	0·14	Artchi,	0·02
Mtiuletin,	0·05	Kaitag,	0·31
Enghiloy,	0·19	Kubatchi,	0·05
Imeretian,	9·00	Darghin,	2·28
Gurian,	1·62	Tabassaran,	0·58
Ajar,	1·26	Aghul,	0·14
Mingrelian and Lazi,	4·57	Kurin,	3·17
Suanetian,	0·29	Rutul,	0·25
Circassian and Kabardin,	0·08	Tsakhur,	0·11
Abkhasian,	1·27	Khinalug,	0·05
Tchetchen,	0·02	Udin,	0·15
Lesghian,	0·01	Gaputly,	0·07
Avar,	3·33	Jeck,	0·17
Karatin,	0·15	Kryz,	0·04
Andian,	0·17	Budugh,	0·06
Dido,	0·10	Mordvin and Esthonian,	0·03
Bogulal,	0·03	Turks,	1·50
Akhvakh,	0·07	Tartars,	24·23
Botlikh,	0·03	Karapapakh,	0·51
Godobery,	0·02	Turkoman,	0·19
Tchamalal,	0·09	Kumykh,	1·28
Tindal,	0·07	Noghai and others,	0·14

We learn further that there are in Transcaucasia seventeen acknowledged creeds, of which the Greek Orthodox and Mohammedan Sunna are predominant and have almost equal numbers of adherents, viz.—29·18 per cent. of the population are Orthodox, whilst 29·33 per cent. are Sunnites: next comes the Armenian Gregorian Church, which counts 19·47 per cent. of the whole, and the Shiah, another Mohammedan sect, with 18·59 per cent. of the population. The remaining 34·9 per cent. of the population are divided between ten Russian sects,¹ Catholics, Jews, Ali-Allakhi, and Yesids.

As to the class distinctions of all these different peoples inhabiting Transcaucasia, they are also pretty numerous, there being four grades of nobility, eight denominations of clergy, four classes of citizens or town-folks (honourable citizens, merchants, artisans, and discharged soldiers),² and six classes of peasants or rural people. The last are of course the most numerous, constituting, indeed, more than 86 per cent. of the whole population. All kinds of nobility, from princes (there are 17,766 persons with a princely title) down to *bey* and *melik*, form 3·02 per cent. of the whole population, clergy 1·12 per cent., and townsfolk 9·42 per cent.

There are in Transcaucasia thirty-one towns and about ten thousand

¹ These form 1·11 per cent. of the whole; the principal are the Molokan (from *Moloko*, milk), the Dukhoborstvo, which denies the divinity of the Holy Ghost, and the Sabbatarian.

² Functionaries and officers are not included, being, probably, not considered as a settled population.

villages of every description. The largest town is Tiflis, whose population was estimated in 1891 at 145,731 souls of both sexes. Afterwards comes Baku with 86,611 souls; Shusha, 26,806; Nukha, 25,894; Kutais, 22,643; Alexandropol, 24,230; Shemakha, 22,139; and Elisavetopol, 20,294.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCHES.

There have been conducted of late, by the Russian Dr. T. Pantukhof, fairly thorough anthropological inquiries into the physical characteristics of the various and very numerous tribes inhabiting the Caucasus. The results of these inquiries and measurements have been presented to the Caucasian Section of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society, and have quite recently appeared in its *Mémoires*. These laborious researches are of deep interest to all who concern themselves with somatology. The Caucasus is one of the best places for the study of the physical formation of the human race, thanks to the variety, as also to the beauty and very ancient origin, of the tribes inhabiting this mountainous, and as yet not easily accessible, country. According to Dr. Pantukhof, somatological and linguistic researches in the Caucasus have proved already, beyond doubt, the existence in this country of many types and races of men, widely differing from one another in physical characteristics. These researches furnish material for some definite classification of the Caucasian peoples. Between the extreme brachycephalic races, such as the Aissors, Hebrews, and Armenians, and the extreme dolichocephalic peoples, as, for instance, the Tats and Persians, there are in the Caucasus a considerable number of anthropologically distinct groups, as there are also many separate groups in regard to language. These distinctions appear to be very lasting and fixed, and there is as little mixture of anthropological types as there are few blendings between particular idioms. It seems that the high civilisation and culture which the remote and splendidly endowed ancestors of the present inhabitants of the Caucasus enjoyed in prehistoric times have had such a lasting and peculiar influence upon the faculties and constitution of the races, that, notwithstanding later intermingling with other nations, the actual descendants of those ancient and unknown peoples have preserved, more or less perfectly, their peculiarities. Contrary to what is observed in Europe, where the highly mingled populations scarcely preserve any distinguishing anthropological conformation, the later intermixture of various Caucasian tribes has not led to the same uniformity, and has caused but little change in the fundamental anthropological types. There has not been found, for instance, amongst Aissors, Hebrews, and Avars, a single dolichocephalic head, as, on the other hand, there has not been found a single brachycephalic skull amongst the Tats. Dr. Pantukhof gives the percentages of the different types of skull amongst the most important Caucasian tribes. We think that the following table may be found of some interest, as it will be seen that the Russian somatologist distinguishes here three kinds of head: dolichocephalic, the ratio between longitudinal and transversal dimensions being from 1:0·70 to 1:0·77; mesocephalic, with a ratio of 1:0·77 to 1:0·85; and brachy-

cephalic, 1:0·85 to 1:0·95. We do not know exactly the number of observations :—

	Dolichocephalic.	Mesocephalic.	Brachycephalic.
Tats,	80	20	0
Persians,	70	25	5
Kurds,	50	40	10
Azerbaijans,	46	44	10
Imeretians,	30	58	12
Mingrelians,	25	59	16
Circassians,	20	63	17
Karatchai,	18	62	20
Transcauc. Tartars,	19	57	24
Abkhasians,	12	38	50
Budughs,	10	60	30
Ossetians,	7	52	41
Suanetians,	6	46	48
Tchetchens,	6	49	45
Didos,	5	46	49
Turks,	3	45	52
Georgians,	2	48	50
Kurinians,	2	47	51
Darghinians,	1	45	54
Khinalugians	0	65	35
Transcauc. Jews,	0	45	55
Aissors,	0	44	56
Armenians,	0	40	60
Tabassaranians,	0	33	67
Kasikumykhs,	0	36	64
Avars,	0	38	62
Jews (highlanders),	0	30	70

The peculiarities of the different Caucasian tribes become even more evident when considered in other particulars.

Dr. Pantukhof gives many interesting data concerning other somatological distinctions of different Caucasian tribes, such as stature, relative disposition of the parts of the body, the circumference of the breast, the abundance or scarcity of hair, the colour of the eyes, length and breadth of the figure, length of the nose, etc.; but, valuable as they may be, we think it scarcely advisable to enter into these particulars here, seeing that the material collected is not as yet sufficient for any generalisation. We would only draw the attention of the reader to a very peculiar connection that seems to exist amongst the same race of people between the colour of the eyes and the dimensions of the body. Thus, the Russian somatologist has invariably found that amongst Georgians and Armenians blue eyes (which are far from common) are accompanied by a smaller stature and a larger head than the far more common black or hazel eyes. On the other hand, in Samursakan, inhabited by Mingrelians, grey-eyed persons are of higher stature and have larger heads than those with hazel eyes.

Dr. Pantukhof insists particularly on the importance of the study of the Jewish type in connection with the inquiry into the origin of the

ancestors of the Caucasians. According to him, the primitive Jewish type was that of the Chaldean, whose native land, according to Baron Usslar, must have been the upper valley of the Euphrates and the environs of Lake Van.

Dr. Pantukhof finds some reason to consider the Khevsurs, part of the Suanetians, and some Lesghian tribes, as of Jewish descent. The Aïssors and some tribes in Asia Minor seem also to be of Jewish origin. Head-measurements of Armenians and Georgians also point to a Hebrew origin. In any case the Caucasian Jews have very little in common with peoples of the Arabian Semitic type, whose representatives are scarce in the Caucasus, and consist only of some Abkhasian, Lesghian, and Azerbaijan tribes. Here are some average results of the measurements of Caucasian Jews:—

Average stature of 344 cases, 63·7 inches; girth round the chest, 32·7 inches; size of the head, longitudinal measurement, from 6·7 to 7 inches; transversal, from 5·15 to 5·7. From a pathological standpoint the Caucasian Jews are remarkable for the great prevalence amongst them of *favus*.

Besides the above, the Russian somatologist gives body-measurements and craniological data, with some photographic representations of all the principal Caucasian nationalities, viz.:—Aïssors, Armenians, Georgians, Imeretians, Mingrelians, Gurians, Suanetians, Abkhasians, Ossetians, Turks, Persians, Tartars, Kurds, Lesghians, and Tekke.

HAUSALAND.

BY REV. CHARLES H. ROBINSON, M.A.

THERE is scarcely any name in African geography which is used in so vague and indefinite a sense as the word Sudan. To very many the name suggests nothing more than a huge tract of desert or thinly populated country, forming a radius of about 500 miles around the town of Khartum. By the African native, however, the term is consistently used so as to include, in addition, the vast stretch of country to the W. and S.W. of Lake Tchad, containing a population of probably not less than 60 million inhabitants.

The chief tribes, or nations, inhabiting this district are the Hausas, Fulanis, Nupés, and Bornuese. The first of these is perhaps the finest native race to be found in the continent of Africa. They are courteous and polite in their dealings alike with strangers and with each other; they live in large well-built cities, one of which, Kano, is supposed to contain a population of no less than 120,000. The reason why up to the present so little has been known concerning them, and why their country, to a large extent, remains yet to be explored, is that they are cut off from intercourse with the coast, or rather from the approach of Europeans from the coast, by two natural obstacles of more than ordinary magnitude.