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As in Europe, females appear to be longer-lived than males, but neither sex attain so great an average of years as among Western nations.

Child marriage prevails chiefly among the Hindu castes, but is slightly on the decrease except in Mandla. Of the statistics of various infirmities we must treat very briefly, although the subject is full of interest. One person in every 6,364 is returned as of unsound mind, the average being greater in the British than in the Feudatory States, but there is a satisfactory decrease since the last census; drink and noxious drugs being the chief predisposing causes. There is a great decrease in the numbers suffering from blindness. Deaf-mutes are also less numerous. The number of lepers is specially great in the Wardha district, but has decreased in other parts of the province, the average being one in 2,014 in British territory, and one in 1,716 in the Feudatory States, and in proportion of sex two men are lepers to one woman; the greater average being among the lower castes and aboriginal tribes, whilst blindness is more common among the higher castes.

The aboriginal tribes are largely illiterate, one reason for this is that Brahmins will not teach low-caste boys. They object to receive anything from their hands, the slates being pushed along the ground to and from the master, and if the latter should accidentally touch a boy, the master must bathe before he is pure. Hence the teacher is generally a Mahomedan, and after a time the low-caste boys disappear, and their place is taken by Mahomedans. Females, of course are almost illiterate except among the Parsis, of whom 56 per cent. of the women can read and write.

Many more interesting facts might be culled from these Census returns, but our space is exhausted.

A. W. BUCKLAND.

Die Philippinen. II. Negritos.

By Dr. A. B. MEYER.

THIS splendid monograph, the ninth volume of the publications illustrating the treasures of the Royal Ethnographic Museum of Dresden, is in many respects the most interesting of the whole series. It contains the discussions of topics of very great interest, and is based on the researches of the author himself and those of Semper, Wallis, Schadenberg, Baessler, and others. It is especially important and well timed, as so much that is inaccurate has been written of late years concerning the Negritos, in connection with the newly awakened interest in the pigmy races of the world.

The work consists of four parts: 1st, A description, with copious illustrative notes, of the ten large plates of photographs of the clothing, weapons, &c., of the Negritos of the Philippines. 2nd, Ethnographic notes on the race. 3rd, A vocabulary of Negrito speech, and a discussion of its affinities by Professor Kern of

Leyden; and 4th, a sketch of the distribution of the Negrito, both within and without the Philippine Islands.

In the first part there are some objects which are noteworthy. Among the articles of clothing figured there is a girdle whose provenance is unknown, made of locks of human hair interwoven with red cotton threads. The hair is that of a Malay, long and straight, not the frizzly hair of the Negrito. There are also several illustrations of the peculiar Negrito comb. The peculiar fashion of cutting short the hair on the back of the head, which is shown in one of the plates, allows of this comb being worn in a peculiar way, inserted horizontally from behind into the hair in front of the tonsured space, so that its flat part projects backwards like a shelf. It is interesting that combs of a similar pattern are in use among the Semangs of the Malayan Peninsula, another Negrito race.

In referring to a cigar mouthpiece from the Philippines Dr. Meyer notes that tobacco smoking is begun early by these people; he has seen suckling children smoking cigars. The same was noticed by Burbage in the Sooloo Archipelago.

The ornaments of the Negritos do not call for much notice; the peculiar leg rings of interwoven swine's bristles, the cloth rolls inserted into the ears, &c., are illustrated. Among the articles of their manufacture there is one extremely ingenious basket made of the node and internode of a large bamboo; the node forms the bottom of the basket, and the wall of the internode is split down nearly to the node into strips, with which are interwoven horizontally thin slips of bamboo, the whole thus making a fish-basket fusiform below, then narrowing upwards and widening finally to its mouth. As in slitting the bamboo the node above has been cut through along with the internode below it the thickened cut segments of the node make a kind of hooklike projection on the end of each of the vertical rods of the basket.

In connection with the illustrations of the arrows and bows we learn that the former, which are generally rather complex in their formation, are poisoned with the juice of a pilocarpus. The bows are for the most part simple.

The sheet of outline pictures shows very well the negro-like features, the thick lips, retreating foreheads, concave noses, and protecting teeth of these people. The shorn occiput gives to the head an extremely brachycephalous profile, and from these sketches one realises the accuracy of the observation of the Chinese writer Chao-ya-Kua, who six hundred years ago described them as "small in size with round and yellow eyes, with curly hair, and their teeth show through their lips."

Dr. Meyer is not able to satisfy himself as to whether the occipital tonsure has any special meaning, or whether the great flattening of the skull is intentional and artificial or produced accidentally by the cradle or other pressure in infancy, but he is inclined to believe that it is intentional, and that the depressed

forehead is associated with it. No application of pressure has been seen nor any such manual moulding as some writers have described among some of the Melanesians. The projecting jaw gives an ape-like appearance to the face, and the apparent microcephalism does not seem to interfere with the intelligence or liveliness of the Negritos, among whom occasionally are to be found some faces which scarcely differ from those of some Europeans.

Tattooing is apparently universal, the patterns being simple, but Dr. Meyer was not able to find out if there was any significance in the different styles of ornamentation, or if the tattooing was performed at any definite period.

The hair is fine and woolly, arranged in close spiral rolls, varying from a dark seal-brown to black. In structure it has a firm continuous cortex with little or no medulla; it turns grey in old age. In children it is soft and silky and tends to grow in long slender corkscrew curls. By the study of shaven heads Dr. Meyer determined that it was generally diffused on the scalp, not growing in islands with bare patches between, the grouping of the follicles differing little from that noticeable in European heads. There is always a certain grouping of hair follicles in all heads European or Negro, but this does not seem exaggerated among these people. They are all woolly haired, the supposed straight-haired Negritos mentioned by some authors being according to him non-existent.

Dr. Meyer found the Negritos to be a happy, lively people, to whom care seemed a stranger, their great anxiety being the procuring of their food, which is of all kinds eatable, fruits, roots, honey, even snakes. When they have provided for their wants they care for no further exertion, and love to lie in laziness and ease. Their songs consist of monotonous endless unison chants, apt to become very wearisome to the hearer.

The stature of twelve males ranged from 1401 mm. to 1505; seven ranged from 1401 to 1409, and five from 1500 to 1505. Semper gives as their range from 1405 to 1489, and Schadenberg from 1350 to 1450. There is a trifling difference between the statures of the sexes. MacLay measured one female of 1300 mm. Combining all observations the stature of the males has been found to range from 1401 to 1575, and that of the females from 1300 to 1485. The Andamanese have about the same range, the ascertained limits being 1362 to 1600 in males, 1302 to 1496 in the females. The Papuans exceed these, the males being from 1417 to 1651 (one exceptional individual having been 1755). The females range from 1404 to 1534.

The vocabularies gathered by all observers are here combined and Professor Kern as the result of his investigation regards it as both a grammar and vocabulary a pure Malayo-Polynesian speech nearly allied to the Tagalese and Biscayan. All the vocabularies hitherto gathered have been from places which have been under Malay influence, and it is possible that the more extended study

of other word-lists may show some more specific Negrito peculiarities. The pronunciation is in some respects peculiar, and the accounts given by some of the older Spanish authors certainly suggest that at one time they had a language of their own. At the same time there has not as yet been discovered that special element in their speech which the late M. Terrien de la Couperie supposed he had found.

The vocabulary, like that of so many island word-lists, shows a predominance of labial sounds as initials, little aspiration and the absence of the *f*. In the grammar the pronominal suffixes and the verbal infixes resemble those of some allied tongues.

The most interesting section of the work is the chapter on the distribution of the Negrito race, a subject upon which much has been very loosely written, and in consequence much error has become current. Dr. Meyer makes a critical inquiry into the grounds of many of the popular accounts of these people, and shows how baseless are many of the statements in reference to the occurrence of Negritos in other lands. In the Philippines there is an estimated population of 20,000 out of a general population of seven millions and a half. They have been found in Luzon, Alabat, Mindoro, Panay, Negros, Mindanao, Tablas, Cebu and Palawan. In some places as in Negros there are Mestizos with a strong admixture of Negrito blood.

Outside the Philippines the evidence of their existence in Borneo is very shadowy, but the presence of Negritos in Celebes, Timor, Moluccas, Java, Sumatra, Belitong, Engano, Formosa, Japan, Loochoo and China is not proven, and in most of these cases more than doubtful. The Semangs of Malacca and the Andamanese are their nearest congeners in structure. The Negrito nature of many of the hill tribes of India, Ghonds, Bhils, &c., requires careful investigation by some one acquainted with the real Negritos. The late Valentine Ball, who was familiar with the Andamanese, has told me that there has been a great deal of inaccurate writing on that subject. In our last conversation, a very short time before his death, he expressed his intention of putting together a number of his notes on the subject with a view of proving that much of the supposed Negrito admixture among the hill folk of India had been hastily assumed by observers who had very insufficient opportunities of becoming acquainted with these people, and he specially warned me concerning certain statements put forward in some modern works on pigmy races.

That the Papuans and Negritos are allied is the opinion of Dr. Meyer, in spite of the supposed prevalence of dolichocephaly among the former. They are, he believes, a variable race much influenced by their environments.

Much yet remains to be learned especially of the physical anthropology of the Negritos, and it is to be hoped that, while yet they remain as an existing people their anatomical structure may be more carefully studied than it has yet been. Researches in this line and the gathering of vocabularies from a wider area are

desirable supplements to Dr. Meyer's work, which as will be seen from this brief summary is one of the most remarkable works by this distinguished author. A. M.

"The Buddha and his Religion." By J. Barthélemy Saint-Hilaire. (Routledge and Sons.) pp. 384. 8vo. 1895. This is a translation from the French by Laura Ensor, and forms one of Sir John Lubbock's "Hundred Books" series. The purpose of the work is to bring out in striking contrast the beneficial truths and the greatness of our spiritualistic beliefs, which a knowledge of Buddhism has enabled the author to better perform. The book is divided into three parts, viz.: Part 1. The origin of Buddhism. Part 2. Buddhism in India in the seventh century of the Christian era. Part 3. Buddhism at the present time in Ceylon.

"The Ruling Races of Prehistoric Times" in India, South-Western Asia and Southern Europe. By J. F. Hewitt. (A. Constable and Co.) Vol. ii. pp. 382. 8vo. 1895. Volume i of this work contained six essays, and told the story of the divine education of civilised man, and how our forefathers "fought their way out of the darkness of ignorance." The present volume continues these essays and gives us three more of them, the titles of which are (vii.) The Astronomy of the Veda, and its Historical Lessons. (viii.) History as told in the Mythology of the Northern Races, the Fathers of the Temple-builders, the Sons of the Seed of Life, the Eight-rayed Star. (ix.) History of the worship of Ia or Yah, the all-wise Fish-Sun God, as told in the Mythology of the American Indians, Scandinavians, Finns, Akkadians, Arabian, Assyrian, and Syrian Semites, Iranians, Hindus, Chinese and Japanese. The book is furnished with a very full index.

"The Growth of the Brain": a study of the nervous system in relation to Education. By Henry Herbert Donaldson. (Walter Scott, Ltd.) pp. 374. 8vo. 1895. This forms a volume of the useful "Contemporary Science Series" edited by Mr. Havelock Ellis; in it the author has brought together much material bearing on the nervous system of animals and the growth changes which produce its power. Many points not often touched upon are emphasized, such as:—The growth of the nervous system compared with that of the body; the interpretation of brain-weight in terms of cell structure; the early limitation of the number of nerve cells; the dominance of nutritive conditions; the wide diffusion of nerve impulses; the incompleteness of repose; the reflex action of all responses; the native character of mental powers; and the comparative insignificance of formal education. The book is well illustrated.

"Egyptian Tales," translated from the Papyri. Second Series, xviiith to xixth Dynasty. Edited by W. M. Flinders