



Psycho-Physical Research in America

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Fifthly, I stated that Sutherland was so named by the Scandinavians. "On the contrary," says Mr. Bryce, "in Sutherland there is very little Scandinavian blood." In support of my assertion I may again quote Isaac Taylor, who says: "It may seem strange that the extreme north-western corner of Great Britain should be called Sutherland. No inhabitant of Scotland could have bestowed so inappropriate a name. The name of Sutherland was evidently given by a people living still further to the north. Here, as well as in Caithness, we find numerous Norwegian names." In the map he gives the straths and glens of Sutherland are coloured as Norwegian.

"The Scandinavians," says Burton, "spread over the northern mainland, occupying large tracts in Caithness and Sutherland." "Caithness and Sutherland," says Skene, "became more Norwegian than Scotch," and again, "in 989 Sigurd was in possession of the four provinces of Moray, Ross, Sudrland or Sutherland, and Dali." "The descendants of the Scandinavians," says Chalmers, "may still be distinguished within Caithness and Sutherland, as a distinct race of Gothic people, from the Saxon inhabitants of the more southern districts."

PSYCHO-PHYSICAL RESEARCH *in* AMERICA.

By JOSEPH JASTROW.

(*Extracts from a letter to Mr. Galton.*)

I THINK it is proper to put John Hopkins University first. Dr. Stanley Hall has charge of the department, and it is the only instance at any American College or University where the head of the philosophical department is a physiological psychologist. The laboratory is only a room in the general biological laboratory, and there will be more rooms, &c., next year. The number of *special* workers is small, it varies from four to six or more. The laboratory is rather well equipped with apparatus: brain models, a chronoscope, Wundt's reaction-time apparatus, a perimeter, colour charts, &c., simple anthropological instruments, and so on. Besides this there is the apparatus invented for the special researches carried on in the laboratory and mostly published in "*Mind*" during the last three years. The course in psychology covers two years' work (the first devoted to the senses, &c., the second to the higher mental processes) and is very well attended. Dr. H. H. Donaldson will next year take charge of the biological courses preparatory to psychology. Besides this there is a seminary, journal club, and a strong interest in psychological subjects generally.¹

¹ Dr. Cattell writes that there is a fellowship (worth £100) in psychology, usually held but for one year by the same person. Mr. Jastrow held it last year. Good work has been done in the psychological department by Hartwell (left-handedness), Stevens (rhythm), and Donaldson (temperature-sense).

At Harvard, Professor James has a room devoted to research, but he has few or no advanced students, and little has yet been done. His lecture course to undergraduates is very popular under the election system there in vogue. He is in the habit of asking his students to record their own sensations, &c., as for example, with regard to visual imagery, &c. But the interest there has lately been diverted largely into the Psychic Research Society, and the two numbers of the Proceedings of that Society show what they are doing. At the Harvard Medical School Professor Bowditch is deeply interested in such work, and was conducting a series of experiments on the effect of alcohol on the reaction-time when I saw him in April. Besides this there is in Boston, and pretty much everywhere, a strong medical interest in the psychology of the insane. Our medical journals are quite full of psychological topics, and morbid psychology is almost a specialty with some physicians.

At Princetown,¹ there is an elementary course in psychology, largely physiological, also one at the University of Michigan. There will be one at Cornell and perhaps at Columbia College. The University of Pennsylvania has just elected Dr. Cattell Lecturer on that subject, and other institutions will doubtless take similar steps.

With the anthropological work at Washington (*vide* Reports of Bureau of Ethnology) and that of Mr. Putnam at Cambridge you are doubtless well acquainted. Dr. Billings is also putting some psychological apparatus in the Army and Medical Museum. From the educational side an interest is rapidly arising in the development of the mind, and the outlook, especially in New England, is very hopeful.

There is also a strong interest in the psychological aspects of blindness, deaf-mutism, idiocy, &c. Laura Bridgman has had much to do in cultivating this.

The interest in psychic research is intense, and I ought not omit that the "crank" element which is strong in the West, makes all sorts of spiritualistic and other kinds of charlatanry flourish.

PREHISTORIC REMAINS *in* SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. A. A. ANDERSON has just issued a little book under the name of "Terra," full of weighty matter, although we think some of the discoveries claimed by the author, will be much disputed by geologists and astronomers. With that, however, we have nothing to do, it is only the last chapter of the book, dealing with the antiquity of man which will be of interest to anthropologists, and here we find two or three announcements which, unless Mr.

¹ Dr. Cattell informs me of a desire expressed at Princetown College to fit up a laboratory there for psycho-physical research.