Anthropometric Committee

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Nº 6 LIGHT BROWN

BROCA-46

Nº 7 BROWN

BROCA-42-28

Nº 8 DARK BROWN

BROCA-27

Nº 9 BLACK BROWN

BROCA-34

Nº 10 BLACK

BROCA-48

Nº 1 VERY FAIR

BROCA-23-47

Nº 2 FAIR

BROCA-52

Nº 3 GOLDEN

BROCA-40

Nº 4 RED

BROCA-30

Nº 5 RED BROWN

BROCA-28

made various oral communications to it. Soon after his arrival in England, he was appointed one of the jurors of the International Exhibition, when he exhibited a collection of Derjeeling teas, and was again a juror in that of 1865.

In 1872 he removed with his family to a house at Slough, where he took an active part in the Orphan Asylum, and various local Institutes, whence he made frequent visits to London, always intent on his favourite pursuits, Indian trade and commerce, or Oriental ethnology. He took a deep interest in the Oriental Congress which took place a very few weeks before his decease; and immediately after which his health, which had never been good, broke down finally, and he died at Slough on the 5th November, 1874, after a short but painful illness, and was buried at Upton. He was a warm friend, of a remarkably generous and affectionate disposition; he was liberal in his views of all matters, and averse to disputation, though tenacious of his opinions. He married, at Darjeeling, in 1841, the second daughter of Dr. J. Lamb, of the Bengal Medical Service, by whom he had twelve children, of whom nine survive him.

ANTHROPOMETRIC COMMITTEE.

DURING the past year the Anthropometric Committee of the British Association has been engaged chiefly in systematising their instructions for the use of observers, so as to avoid as far as possible the errors which have arisen from misunderstanding the regulations issued for collecting data. The utmost precision in taking the measurements, and the use of recognised and clearly defined, terms in the descriptions are essential, without which it is impossible to draw up statistics or arrive at general results.

Under the head of *origin*, more definite instructions have been given. "If the individual observed upon has lived habitually in the country he is to be noted under the head of *country folk*. This, however, is not to include residence in large country towns unless the individual so residing is habitually occupied in country pursuits. If both father and mother are also country folk in the sense above defined the entry should be *pure country folk*. In cases where the history of all four grandparents is known, and they, or the majority of them, were all country folk, the entry should have the word *very* prefixed, thus, *very pure country folk*." Similar instructions are to be observed as regards town folk.

Under the head of *eyes*, the terms to be employed are laid down as follows, and to avoid the possibility of error, these terms are inserted at the head of the column in the Schedule which is to be filled in by the observer, viz., grey, light blue, blue, dark blue, light brown, brown, dark brown, green, black; the colours of the

eyes should be viewed at such a distance that minor variations may blend into one general hue and tint.

Under the head of *hair*, the instructions are very detailed. Great difference has existed hitherto in the mode of describing the colour of the hair, thereby rendering the returns quite valueless. The coloured patches in M. Broca's tables were found to be too small to be used at the distance requisite for correct observation. Suggestions have been made that as the colour of the hair of the same head varies with the light, patterns should be shaded also; this, however, only increases the difficulty by rendering the *standard* of uncertain value. It is now recognised, that the standard of comparison should be of one uniform shade, and the difficulty is met by increasing the size of the patterns, and by making the comparison at such a distance that minor shades, as in the case of the eyes, may be merged as far as possible into one general tint. A small book, containing ten coloured patterns, each pattern being five inches by three, carefully matched with typical specimens of hair kindly furnished by Mr. Douglas, hair-cutter, of Bond Street, has been issued by the Committee with the printed instructions. Mr. Douglas's experience in estimating the prevailing colours of hair, having been derived from the practical requirements of the trade, has been of considerable value to the Committee, and will no doubt be the means of establishing suitable standards of comparison for the British Isles. Although the colours in the little book now issued with the instructions, do not in all cases agree exactly with the shades of M. Broca's tables, published in our "*Anthropological Notes and Queries*," representing colours of the skin and hair of different races, they approach them sufficiently to enable a reference to be made in each case, which is done by printing at the foot of each pattern the number of the pattern in M. Broca's tables which corresponds to the colour in the book. When the colour in the book falls between two of M. Broca's patterns, the reference is made thus: Broca 42—26. The ten colours in the book are named as follows, viz., 1 very fair, 2 fair, 3 golden, 4 red, 5 red-brown, 6 light brown, 7 brown, 8 dark brown, 9 black-brown, 10 black, and these terms are printed at the head of the column of *Hair* in the Schedule to avoid the possibility of mistake. It is not of course expected that all the various shades of hair should be accurately matched by these ten patterns, the object being to divide the hair of the country into ten classes, and to give a definite value to the terms employed; the nearest pattern to that of the individual observed upon should be the one recorded in the Schedules.

Coxeter's spirometer as at first constructed for the Committee, not having been found of sufficient size to contain the air exhaled at one breath from the lungs of a full-sized man, the air bag has been enlarged.

The regulations for taking the strength of arm have been revised. It is now decided that the extended arm is in all cases to be free, and it is to be extended straight from the side as nearly as possible in the line of the shoulders. The spring balance is invariably to be

used ; a woodcut showing the proper position for taking this measurement is appended to the instructions.

The small dots for testing the eyesight having been found unsuitable, dots one-fifth inch square, the same size as used for the Army, have been adopted. This measurement is invariably to be taken *out of doors*, to avoid the errors arising from difference of light in rooms. An average day is to be selected ; the individual should stand with his back to the sun, and the card should face the light, but should not be exposed to the glare of the sun ; great care is requisite in taking these measurements.

The attention of the Committee has also been drawn to the desirability of endeavouring to ascertain by means of photographs the various types of physiognomy prevailing in different districts. That characteristic differences of countenance do exist in different parts of the country appears very probable. But the difficulty of obtaining any reliable statistics on the subject is very great, owing to the almost impossibility of establishing any recognised standard of comparison for features ; where one person will fix upon a particular class of physiognomy as characteristic of a district, another person in the same district will select something totally different. It is laid down that the only true method of obtaining reliable results, should be by obtaining as large a number of photographs as possible of persons from different localities, whose descriptions should be, as far as possible, recorded in the manner laid down in the Anthropometric Instructions, regardless of type ; and the Committee should then determine typical forms from an examination of the photographs thus obtained. This, however, entails the collection of an enormous number of photographs, to be followed possibly by some little difference of opinion on the part of the Committee appointed to estimate the types.

It is possible that the best means of arriving approximately at the required results may hereafter be found to be, by appointing several independent observers, say five or six, in the same district, who after careful observation of the people around them, might select certain photographs which they considered typical of the district, and the Committee might then determine by means of the photographs thus sent in by different individuals, whether any agreement could be traced between them. Even then the results will probably have to be received with the utmost caution.

Notwithstanding the greater detail in which the instructions are now issued, it is still to be expected that mistakes will be made by different observers, affecting the uniformity of the tests and invalidating the results. It is therefore proposed that all persons who propose to make observations, should have the use of the various instruments explained to them, and should qualify, by going through the different measurements under the superintendence of an instructor, which function has been undertaken by Mr. J. H. Young, Assistant Secretary to the Committee at the General Register Office, Somerset House.

A. LANE FOX.