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Author(s): H. H. Johnston

Review by: H. H. Johnston

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enlarged edition. Pp. xiv., 601. *Maps and Illustrations*. 8s. 6d. net.) First published in 1911, Mr. Bullard's work on Panama has now been brought up to date and embellished with additional photographs. Half of it or more is historical. The rest records facts and impressions about country and people at the present day, and about the construction of the Panama canal, in the picturesque style of American journalism. A folding map of the republic of Panama is almost illegible.

### ANTHROPOGEOGRAPHY.

#### EARLY MAN IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

'Prehistoric Times and Men of the Channel Islands.' By Joseph Sinel, Curator of the Jersey Museum, etc., with a foreword by Dr. Arthur Keith. Jersey: J. T. Bigwood. 1914. Pp. 135. *Numerous Maps and Illustrations*.

Few more interesting works than this have ever been published on the past history of man in North-West Europe. But for the indirect consequences of the present war, which took away the reviewer to America with Mr. Sinel's book in his hand (so to speak), this treatise on one of the most interesting phases of Palæanthropology should have received earlier notice in the pages of the *Geographical Journal*. There is so much "palæogeography" (if I may harp on the Greek adjective) in this book that a notice of it is quite in keeping with the geographical limitations of our *Journal*. It shows us convincingly how the Channel Islands (and most recently Jersey, the largest of the group) were the hill crests of Northern France overlooking the broad valley which is now the British Channel; and how, long after that channel was formed or reformed in the latest among the many insulations of England, Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney were islet-crowned peninsulas of France advancing into the waters of the ever-enlarging strait which separated Normandy from Devonshire. By this time, with Britain once again an island, or at most connected with Calais by narrow sandy flats, Neanderthal man had been evolved somewhere in France or the Rhine Valley, a much later growth of time than *Homo sapiens*, and in some respects a throw-back to the brute. Neanderthal man had a very large brain, but one which may have generated only a humble intellect. He had retained from the original generic *Homo* lowly configurations of skull and limbs, markedly Simian features, in fact. But in respect of his teeth, he had departed far more from the anthropoid than the modern Englishman, and very much more so than the black Australian or the Negro. This and other important traits in *Homo neanderthalensis* (no longer rightly owning his first given name of *primigenius*) were made known to us by Dr. Arthur Keith; and the chief evidence which put Dr. Keith on the right track came from Jersey. Apparently Neanderthal man arose so comparatively late in Earth-history that the overland route to England was already eaten away by the desire for union between the eroding waves of the North Sea and these of the British Channel. So far no trace of this aberrant species of the genus *Homo* has been found in our country. He ranged seemingly from Austria and the Rhine to Gibraltar, France, and Belgium. But he certainly inhabited Jersey, so that we can claim him posthumously as a subject of the Duke of Normandy and British King-Emperor.

Down to about three years ago Neanderthal man was looked upon as the first definite stage behind *Homo sapiens*, back towards the ape ancestry. But we now know that *sapiens* preceded him in time, in England at any rate, and that the difference between the two was probably so considerable that even if they met and mingled connubially there was little likelihood of their generating a mixed progeny which has survived to this day. So that all talk of this and

that modern race being "neanderthaloid" has been swept away by Dr. Keith's discoveries. Least of all is the Australoid akin to Neanderthalensis. The problem centres on the teeth. The teeth of this clumsy, shambling, big-brained, heavy-browed human were more specialized than the teeth of *H. sapiens* for the proper grinding-up of a hard vegetable diet. The canines were even smaller than those of modern man, and the molars were "taurodont" and not "cynodont" like ours; which means that they had the spaces between the fangs filled up with cement instead of being low-crowned like other human teeth.

Mr. Sinel's book, however, treats of man in Jersey and Guernsey not merely in most remote times beyond the faintest glimmering of history, but right on through the Palæolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze ages, down to the advent of the iron-using Aryans, almost to the coming of the Romans. It is a work of the greatest interest and of much scientific value. Its maps and diagrams are clear, and its photographs of skulls, of the sites of discoveries, of stone and flint implements and utensils, of gold torques, and submerged forests are important contributions to Palæanthropology, and to our study of the prehistoric life of man in north-west Europe. Who would have thought that all this could have come out of the tiny Channel Islands, that they could have had such a far-reaching and honourable past in human history? Another triumph for the "little countries"!

H. H. JOHNSTON.

### HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY.

#### EARLY PORTUGUESE NAUTICAL SCIENCE.

Joaquin Bensaude, 'L'astronomie nautique en Portugal à l'Époque des grandes découvertes.' Berne: Max Drechsel. 1912.

'Regimento do Astrolabio e do Quadrante. Tractado da Spera do Mundo.'  
Réproduction fac-similé. Munich: Carl Kuhn. 1914.

Luciano Pereira da Silva, 'A astronomia das Lusíadas.' Lisbon. 1913.

A very important discovery was made, in recent years, in the Royal Library at Munich, throwing light on the history of nautical astronomy with reference to the Portuguese discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The little book that has been brought to our knowledge is entitled 'Regimento do astrolabio e do quadrante.' Only this one copy is known to exist, but it is one of many prepared for the use of Portuguese seamen under the superintendence of the Mathematical *Junta* or committee, appointed by King John II. of Portugal. A facsimile of the original in the Munich Library has been presented to our Society.

It is in two parts. The first part contains full instructions for finding the latitude with seventeen examples, rules for correcting observed altitude of the polar star, a list of sixty latitudes on the west coast of Africa as far as the equator, rules for placing tracks on a chart, and tables of sun's declination for the year. The second part is a translation of the treatise on the sphere by Sacrobosco, who was a Yorkshireman from Holywood near Halifax, as the name implies.

The discovery led to the publication of a learned work by Senhor Joaquin Bensaude. The author shows that the tables of declination are derived from a Portuguese and not, as has hitherto been incorrectly assumed, from a German source. It appears that in about 1473 a learned Portuguese Jew, named Abraham Zacuto, composed a work in Hebrew, entitled 'Almanac Perpetua,' in which he gave the tables of declination. On the Mathematical *Junta* of King John II. there was another Jew called "Messer José." His full name