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Origin and Influence of the Thoroughbred Horse. by W. Ridgeway

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similar to that of the Australian aboriginals and certain of the Melanesians, especially the aborigines of New Britain; the concordance of cranial character is (as between the Senoi and Semang) almost absolute, the difference in stature is not very great, but in respect of the hair there is a very striking contrast. Professor Martin does not decide in favour of the test of hair-character as against that of cranial proportions, but mentions that Virchow laid the greater stress at one period on the latter criterion, though he subsequently altered his view in favour of the test of the hair.

It may be repeated that Professor Martin has spared no pains to render his account as comprehensive as possible, and indeed the work would serve as an admirable introduction to anthropometry and the racial morphology of the skeleton. In the present connection it is only possible to select a very few points for special mention. Attention is particularly called to the diagrams (of the kind first used by Professor Thomson, of Oxford) employed to represent the bodily proportions in different tribes; three diagrams will be found on pp. 290, 291, and another very interesting and instructive series of diagrams (which we also owe to Professor Thomson) appears on p. 414. The tables and diagrams illustrative of the several values of the "exponent of oscillation" of Stieda (analogous to the "standard-deviation") are also remarkable (*cf.* pp. 350, 380, and 385).

The delicate conformation of the skeleton in these wild aboriginal tribes is the subject of special comment, and the character may be claimed as an "infantile" one. The cranial capacity, too, is not so small as might be expected, and stress is laid on this observation. The present reviewer is (on p. 577) credited with not supplying the absolute measurements of the Semang scapulæ described in a paper on "Some Anthropological results of the Skeat Expedition," published in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* in 1902. This criticism is, however, undeserved, for the measurements in question are duly recorded in the paper to which reference is made.

W. L. H. DUCKWORTH.

## Evolution.

Ridgeway.

*Origin and Influence of the Thoroughbred Horse.* By W. Ridgeway, Disney 106  
Professor of Archæology in the University of Cambridge. (Cambridge Bio-  
logical Series.) Cambridge: University Press, 1905. Pp. xvi + 538. 22 × 14 cm. Price  
12s. 6d. net.

This is one of those interesting and suggestive books which will be welcomed even by those who fail to agree with everything in it. The author is a distinguished classical scholar who attaches at least as much importance to what an ancient writer says as to how he says it, and who has given us many a clever sketch of what has been written by classic authors on archæological subjects.

In this case he has laid before us the result of his enquiries into the evidence as to the character and geographical distribution of the horse, and has strung the whole together by a working hypothesis, which is that the English thoroughbred is derived from a race which was developed in North Africa, and not, as generally supposed, in Arabia.

There are peculiarities of colour and structure in the several breeds of horse, ass, and zebra, for some of which a satisfactory explanation can be offered, while in respect of others the imagination has still free play. The hair of the mane falls in some, but has a tendency to stand erect in others. The hair on the tail is gathered to a tuft at the end in some, but starts from the stump in others. There are in some callosities on the legs and feet which are absent in others. The pattern of the colours varies, and there are many constant traits of temper and habit. All these characters are very persistent and furnish criteria by which the origin of the mixed breeds may be traced after many changes of surroundings and selective crossings.

Darwin's view was that the similarity in the most distinct breeds in their general range of colour, in their dappling, and in the occasional appearance, especially in duns,

of leg stripes and of double or triple shoulder stripes, taken together, indicate the probability of the descent of all the existing races from a single dun-coloured, more or less striped, primitive stock, to which our horses occasionally revert. He thinks, however, that the presence of shoulder, leg, and spiral stripes in the horse—their occasional absence in the ass—the occurrence of double and triple shoulder stripes in both animals, and the similar manner in which these stripes terminate at their lower extremities—are all cases of analagous variation in the horse and ass, and that these cases are probably not due to similar conditions acting upon similar constitutions, but to a partial reversion in colour to a common progenitor which was striped on the legs, shoulders, face, and probably over the whole body like a zebra.

Professor Ridgeway does not accept the theory of a single progenitor for the horse kind and briefly discusses the evidence in his first chapter. He starts with two distinct breeds of horse—the one a buff, or dun, or white, stout pony found, at the time when he takes up the story, throughout the northern parts of Asia and Europe; the other a taller, fine limbed, swift, bay horse occurring, when first introduced to our notice, in Libya and the adjoining regions of northern Africa.

He describes the geographical distribution and variation of the northern type showing that in the easternmost part of the region it is still represented by wild forms which greatly resemble some ancient breeds depicted by primeval man on the walls of his cave dwellings or on his bone and ivory drawing tablets.

At the western end a finer, faster breed of pony still shows most of the characteristics of this northern race. was a useful animal and was soon drawn south over the great natural barriers of central Eurasia by purchase, conquest, and theft, and our author discusses the result of crossing it with the larger, fleetier southern breed.

This southern type of horse was developed, according to Professor Ridgeway, in Libya and the adjacent parts of north Africa.

He holds that as a consequence of environment the evolution of this breed has been along the same lines as those which have determined the character of the African zebras in respect of colour, structure, temper, habit, &c. That some peculiarity of character should affect animals belonging to different groups in the same zoological district is not improbable. Both rodents and carnivores are marsupial in Australasia, therefore we need not be much surprised to find striped and spotted horses in the land of the giraffe and the zebra. The zebras vary among themselves in different parts of Africa; but, although they differ in their markings and intensity of colour, there is running through them all a tendency towards a definite pattern, and this pattern comes out in the Libyan horse and its descendants more or less distinctly, and more or less fully developed, at various ages in the life of the animal and under various circumstances depending upon selective crossing, &c.

Of course, there were horses in Arabia far enough back to have supplied the traditional sires of our English thoroughbred, but Professor Ridgeway's point is that the Arab was not developed in Arabia, and that the barb was not, as has been usually supposed, a horse of Arabian origin which had been introduced into North Africa and had thence travelled on into Europe more or less crossed with other breeds.

He contends that the ancestor of the Arab and of the thoroughbred was developed in Libya, where it was known 1,000 years before the Christian era as the fleetest and strongest horse that could be anywhere found, and for this breed he suggests the name *Equus caballus libycus*.

This better breed was in great request from the earliest ages of which we have any record. Red or bay horses are mentioned in Zechariah; Solomon procured horses from Egypt; Homer tells of warriors of Egyptian Thebes with chariots and horses; Strabo mentions the breeding of horses in northern Africa; and Pliny speaks of the nimble and docile Numidian horses; while Pausanias tells us that the Libyans rode on horseback.

But it may be inferred that there was no good breed of horses, perhaps no horses at all, in Arabia before the Christian era, because, although camels are specified, there is no reference to horses in cases where they would have been mentioned had they been there. The horses of Arabia, therefore, must have been introduced through Egypt from Libya and other parts of North Africa, where we know that a breed of the same type as the Arab was ridden 1,000 years before. He further shows what are the results of crossing this African breed with others akin to the northern type, and explains that the present or historical distribution of these crossbreds is in accordance with what we should infer from the direct evidence of history and tradition.

Instead, therefore, of the Arab being the parent stock of the Barb and other North African breeds, and of the English thoroughbred, the Arab is derived from the Libyan horse and was not imported into Arabia until long after the Christian era, and the author is led on to speculations as to the far-reaching influence which the introduction of horses among the people of that part of Asia had upon the spread of the Mohammedan religion. Professor Ridgeway, by his ingenuity in criticism and his skill and industry in collecting evidence, has produced a work which must give a new impulse to all those who cultivate this and similar fields of enquiry, and has produced a book of which account must be taken in all future work on the subject. Many of his inferences are given as probabilities, not as certainties, and he himself, as well as his readers, may look forward to some useful discussion of the vast amount of material which he has brought together and to some wholesome controversy arising out of it, for controversy is the fan which winnows out the grain from the chaff.

T. McKENNY HUGHES.

## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

### Proceedings.

### British Association.

*Anthropology at the British Association. South African Meeting, 1905.*

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The Anthropological section of the British Association met from August 16th to 18th in Cape Town, and from August 29th to September 1st in Johannesburg.

The address of the President, Dr. A. C. Haddon, F.R.S., dealt with the ethnology of South Africa, and will be found in full in *Nature* (September 7th), and in the *Report of the British Association (South Africa)*, 1905.

In the summary which follows, the final destination of each paper, so far as it is known, is indicated in square brackets.

E. SIDNEY HARTLAND.—*The Totemism of the Bantu*.—M. Casalis pointed out fifty years ago the similarity between the practices and beliefs of the Bantu and the American natives. The object of the paper was to examine the Bantu practices and belief with a view to ascertaining :—

1. How far they extend, and what evidence there is of their former existence where they are no longer to be found.

2. Whether there is any essential difference between the Bantu practices and belief, and what is generally understood by totemism elsewhere.

3. The process of decay, especially among the Eastern Bantu from the Zambesi southward.

The conclusions arrived at were that, though there is little in what is recorded of the Western Bantu which points directly to totemism, there is reason to think that it once generally prevailed among the Bantu ; that its disappearance from the Western Bantu is due to contact with the pure Negro along the west coast ; that among the eastern and northern Bantu the decay of totemism is due to the change in the reckoning of kinship from reckoning through the mother only to reckoning through the father, and to the ancestor worship which has arisen upon the new social basis thereby laid ; and that there is no essential difference between the Bantu practices and belief and what is generally recognised as totemism elsewhere.