

## REVIEWS.

---

*The Races of Europe.* A Sociological Study. With Supplement containing a Bibliography of the Anthropology and Ethnology of Europe. By WILLIAM Z. RIPLEY, Ph.D. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1899. 2 vols. Cloth, \$6.

TO THOSE who are in any way interested in the racial development of Europe, or in the historical and social movements which are intimately bound up with racial questions, and especially to those who have endeavored to get light upon some of these most important aspects of European civilization by reference to the maze of contradictory material on the subject scattered through all kinds of books and journals by all kinds of writers, this new work by Dr. Ripley will be most welcome. "Containing little that may be called original, strictly speaking, it represents merely an honest effort to coördinate, illustrate, and interpret the vast mass of original material—product of years of patient investigation by observers in all parts of Europe—concerning a primary phase of human association: that of race or physical relationship" (Preface, p. v). The object of the book, as specified by the author, is to "disentangle" the forces represented by physical environment and race from the "intricate mass of forces working in and through each other," and "to analyze them separately and apart, as if for the moment the others were non-existent" (p. 2). Dr. Ripley has faithfully and skillfully performed his task. The enormous labor expended by the author is fully made manifest by a perusal of the work, and by the very complete and well-arranged bibliography printed by itself in a volume of 160 pages. While the conclusions derived from the critical examination of all this material leave room for difference of opinion in some cases, the result on the whole is very satisfactory, and gives evidence of a fair-minded and judicial examination of all the facts.

The basis of the whole work is anthropological. Before it is possible to determine the influence of the racial factor—temperament, etc.—in the historical and social movements of Europe, such as the movements of population, etc., and before it is possible to distinguish

between the influence of environment and that of race, it is necessary to define very clearly what the races of Europe are, to determine their present distribution, and to trace their past history. It is this consideration that justifies the introduction into a "sociological study" of a mass of anthropological material that becomes tedious to the ordinary reader. The author, be it said, has succeeded in making this material as entertaining as it can well be made. And its introduction has made the book as valuable for the student of pure anthropology and ethnology as for the student of social problems. The three physical characters chosen for the determination of race are the cephalic index; pigmentation, especially of the hair and eyes; and stature. The cephalic index is the most reliable character, since it is not subject to modification by environment, nor by artificial selection. Stature is subject to such modification most of all, and is, therefore, the least reliable of the three characters. Other characters are used in some cases to support the evidence of the three fundamental characters named. From a study of these anthropological data, collected by observers in all parts of Europe, both among the living and among the remains of prehistoric populations, the author establishes the existence in Europe of three fundamental races; the white race being, in reality, three races. This classification is, in general, in accord with the conclusions of the best modern anthropologists, though there are some who would classify differently. The author mentions in particular the most recent attempt to classify the peoples of Europe into six main and four secondary races; but he justly maintains that this attempt of Deniker "is rather a classification of *existing varieties*" than of races. From the varied nomenclatures suggested by different writers for these fundamental races, the author chooses "Teutonic" to designate the long-headed, tall, and blond race whose center of dispersion seems to have been in Scandinavia, or about the Baltic, and who have pushed their way down into central and western Europe; "Mediterranean" for the long-headed, short, and dark race which has, from earliest times, centered about the Mediterranean, though at one time it was quite widely distributed over Europe; and "Alpine" for the round-headed race of medium stature, and with a tendency toward brunetness, which entered Europe from the east at a very early time, separating the other two races. This is the race frequently called Slavo-Celtic, and is characteristic of the Alpine highlands.

After a chapter devoted to the general distribution of the three races, the author analyzes the populations of the various countries of

Europe. The modern nations of Europe are compounds of these three racial elements, and the geographical distribution of the racial characters seems to follow definite laws. But here enters one of the greatest difficulties of an investigation like this of Dr. Ripley's: it is often extremely difficult to determine whether the physical characteristics of a population are due to the race of the inhabitants or to the action of environment. With the present inadequacy of our knowledge of the effect of environment upon physical growth and of heredity, we cannot help feeling a suspicion, in many cases, of conclusions drawn from a few physical characters. We hasten to say, however, that Dr. Ripley has more thoroughly examined all the data extant than anyone else, and that he has shown a rare caution in submitting his conclusions. In spite of acknowledged difficulties, he has not only mapped out the racial geography of the continent in considerable detail, but he has also been able to show the direct and indirect relations, in many cases, between this racial distribution and the food conditions.

Although a large part of Dr. Ripley's book is taken up with anthropological details, the real object of the book is to analyze two of the fundamental elements of the social phenomena of European development—the element of race and the element of environment. From this point of view, he has done what many another writer has failed to do: he has recognized, in the first place, the extreme complexity of social phenomena viewed as a whole; in the second place, with reference to the particular elements of the problem which he has set out to study—race and environment—he has been able to give each factor its due in relation to the general problem. The social philosophy which attributes everything to environment is a back number: environment is only one of the conditions. But the anthropologist who, on the other hand, would attribute everything to race is just as greatly in error. The question has become much like that with reference to the superiority of one or other of the sexes; sides have been taken in the discussion, only to find that there is no room for comparison between the two. In his two chapters on “Social Problems” the author has done much to put this question in its right light. While recognizing the fundamental influence of temperament, he points out the fallacy into which many recent writers have fallen of attributing to race alone the social phenomena which are characteristic of the habitat of that race. His theory is “that most of the social phenomena we have noted [frequency of divorce, suicide, etc.], as peculiar to the areas

occupied by the Alpine type, are the necessary outcome, not of racial proclivities, but rather of the geographical and social isolation characteristic of the habitat of this race. The ethnic type is still pure for the very same reason that social phenomena are primitive" (p. 529). With reference to the theory that the unusual tallness of city populations indicates that the Teutonic race manifests a tendency to migrate into the cities, he collects a "formidable array of testimony" to show that "the tendency of urban populations is certainly not toward the pure blond, long-headed, and tall Teutonic type. The phenomenon of urban selection is something more complex than a mere migration of a single racial element in the population toward the cities. The physical characteristics of townsmen are too contradictory for ethnic explanations alone. A process of physiological and social, rather than of ethnic, selection seems to be at work in addition" (p. 559).

There are many things of interest in the book aside from the main discussion. There is a chapter on "European Origins," in which the probable sources of the European races and the European culture are discussed. The "Aryan question" here again comes up for a brief but clear statement of the facts as they exist at present. A chapter is devoted to the Jews and Semites, the conclusion of which is that "the Jews are not a race, but only a people after all. In their faces we read its confirmation, while in respect of their other traits we are convinced that such individuality as they possess—by no means inconsiderable—is of their own making from one generation to the next, rather than a product of an unprecedented purity of physical descent" (p. 400). In other words, he attributes the persistence of the Jewish type to an artificial selection, and gives evidence to show that the Jewish features persist, in spite of much intermixture with other peoples. The question of the intermixture of the Jews with other peoples is still disputed by some authorities, among others by the eminent authority on the Jews, Mr. Joseph Jacobs. Another chapter is given to a discussion of that interesting people of the Pyrenees, the Basques. Dr. Ripley maintains that the round-headed variety on the north slopes of the Pyrenees comprises the purest representatives of the group. He follows Collignon in his theory of the origin of this peculiar people as an offshoot from the Mediterranean race. The peculiar facial features and the breadth of the head above the temples are attributed, as in the case of the Jews, to an artificial selection among an isolated people. The last chapter of the book is of peculiar interest at this time—"Acclimatization: the Geographical Future of the European Races." After a

discussion of the general problems of acclimatization and the aptitude of the various European nationalities for life in the tropics, the author says : "Summarizing the views of authorities upon this subject, the almost universal opinion seems to be that true colonization in the tropics by the white race is impossible" (p. 585). "In the face of such testimony there can be but one conclusion : to urge the emigration of women, children, or of any save those in the most robust health to the tropics, may not be to murder in the first degree, but it should be classed, to put it mildly, as incitement to it" (p. 586).

A special word should be added with reference to the very complete bibliography of the *Anthropology and Ethnology of Europe*, published as the second volume of the work by the Boston Public Library ; to the large number of maps which greatly enhance the value of the book ; and to the superb collection of portrait types.

ARTHUR W. DUNN.

---

*The Life of William Morris.* By J. W. MACKAIL. Two volumes, illustrated. Longmans, Green & Co. Pp. viii+375, 364.

FOR many, interest in William Morris has centered around some special point of his work, and acquaintance with his life has been made by reading various studies, each portraying some one line of his activities. It is now a satisfaction that the telling of all these pursuits and triumphs in chronological order is made into both an alluring life story and also a complete narrative with logical sequence. The task has been an exacting one, the demands made upon the chronicler of a most unusual kind. Morris' genius and endeavors were so multi-form that it is required of his biographer to possess sympathies for widely different energies and ideals, and most varied powers of judgment and appreciation. The best has been done, we think, in that the chosen biographer, Mr. J. W. Mackail—the son-in-law of the late Sir Edward Burne-Jones—entered upon the work at the desire of this lifelong friend, and the biography is written from a human standpoint.

The enthusiastic saga-convert, F. Buxton Forman, author of *The Life Poetic, as Lived by William Morris*, may not hold the same estimate each time in the literary field, and Mr. Bernard Shaw may claim the right to deny some statement regarding socialistic dogma, as he does with quite amusing wit in his own review of the biography