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Author(s): Charles S. Myers

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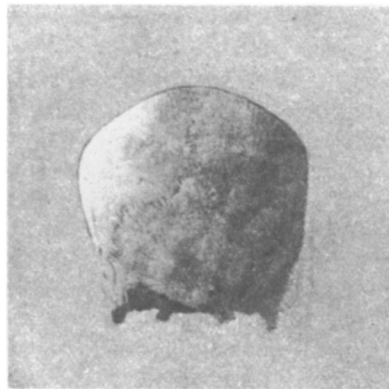
The Bones of Hen Nekht, an Egyptian King of the Third Dynasty. By Charles S. Myers (cf. MAN, 1901. 131). **127**

From archaeological data, it appears that Hen Nekht ruled over Egypt in the Third Dynasty, about 4000 B.C. His tomb, with its contents of bones and pottery, was discovered last season near Girgeh, by Mr. John Garstang, to whom my thanks are due for permission to publish these remarks before they are included in the official report, which will appear later through the aid of the Egyptian Research Account.

The bones of Hen Nekht are interesting, not only because he is by far the earliest known king whose remains have been found, but because they are the first which can



SIDE.



BACK.



FRONT.



TOP.

with any certainty be dated as belonging to the Third Dynasty. They proclaim him to have been a man of unusual height. His stature probably exceeded 1870 millimetres, while the average stature of later and prehistoric Egyptians was 1670 millimetres. The proportions of his long bones to one another were such as characterise negroid skeletons, a condition frequently observed in the prehistoric period, and commonly in the later period of the early empire. The skull was very massive and capacious, and extraordinarily broad for an Egyptian, the cranial index coming almost within the bounds of

brachycephaly. Its features agreed more closely with those of dynastic than with those of prehistoric skulls.

We turn now to history for the mention of an early Egyptian king of phenomenal stature. To such a king both Manetho and Eratosthenes allude. According to the former historian he was Sesochris, penultimate king of the Second (Thinite) Dynasty; according to the latter he was Momcheiri, first king of the Third (Memphite) Dynasty. It is in the highest degree probable that these are two names of one and the same king. The view I here offer seems to solve many difficulties.

Mr. Randall-MacIver's measurements make it probable that from the late prehistoric times onward, a people distinguished by broader heads, longer noses, and other characters gradually made their way and became absorbed into the long-headed population of This and its neighbourhood. These broader-headed people formed the ruling class of the earliest dynasties. According to history and tradition they founded Memphis, and doubtless multiplied there. By the Third Dynasty, according to Manetho, they beganto build houses of hewn stone, and probably they constructed the earliest Egyptian pyramids. They developed at Memphis a remarkable school of sculpture, soon producing the most life-like wooden statue of a man that has ever been made; he, too, was broad-headed. Up to the time of Hen Nekht, the broader-headed line of kings styled themselves Thinite, and continued to be buried near This, in conformity with the ancient tradition of the people with whom they had come into contact. In the end, however, Memphis outvied This, and kings who succeeded Hen Nekht began to forsake the simple Thinite burials for the pyramids of Saqqarah, Gizeh, and Abousir. Thus Hen Nekht may be considered in name and culture to be of the Third, or Memphite Dynasty; but, by his burial near This, came to be regarded as belonging to the previous Thinite Dynasty.

The broader-headed race above mentioned is commonly thought to have arrived first in the Nile Valley at Koptos (Quft) from Punt, a land sacred to the later Egyptians, the situation of which it is conjectured was near Somaliland and the opposite coast. There is, however, some geological evidence to show that the Red Sea extended in historic times through the lakes near to Ismailia. Accordingly the people of Punt, wandering northward from their home along the shores of the Red Sea, could conceivably have made their way with ease to the Nile Valley nearer Memphis. It is, however, not less probable that Asia rather than Punt was the home of this broader-headed race. The earliest dynastic Egyptians used the Babylonian seals and the Babylonian cubit. To Asia and Central Europe we are wout to look for the broader-headed people. Moreover, according to the Greek legend,* Memphis was founded by the marriage of Memphis, daughter of the Nile, with Epaphus, who born of the Grecian Io (Isis) was carried off when a babe to Syria, and brought back by his mother to Egypt.

Scotland : Pigmentation.

Gray : Tocher.

The Frequency and Pigmentation Value of Surnames of School Children in East Aberdeenshire. By J. F. Tocher, F.I.C., and J. Gray, B.Sc. **128**

In the course of a pigmentation survey carried out by us in East Aberdeenshire in 1896 and 1897 we obtained the statistics of the surnames and pigmentation of 14,561 (practically the whole) school children there. An analysis of the physical characteristics, apart from the surnames, has already been published.† The present paper deals with the distribution of the frequency of surnames and their correlation with pigmentation. We have found that among the 14,561 children there are 751 different surnames. The frequency of these surnames varies between 1 and 267, Milne being the most frequent, the next in order being Smith, Taylor, Stephen, and Bruce. If the surnames are

* Cf. Ridgeway, *Early Age of Greece*, I. 217. † *Journ. Anthr. Inst.*, Vol. XXX., pp. 104-125.