



Report on the Department of Anthropology at the Bristol Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1875

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were supposed mainly to govern heredity. Finally, the exact relationship was defined, which connects the parents with their offspring.

Mr. Rudler read a report on Anthropology at Bristol, as follows:—

REPORT on the DEPARTMENT of ANTHROPOLOGY at the BRISTOL MEETING of the BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE, 1875. By F. W. RUDLER, Secretary of the Department.

THOSE of our members who were present at the Bristol Meeting may fairly look back with unmixed feelings of satisfaction at the part which their science played on that occasion. Year after year the claims of anthropology to take rank among the natural-history sciences come to be better understood and more definitely recognised; and although it is perhaps scarcely possible to altogether exclude papers of an empirical character, it is yet matter of congratulation that there is a notable increase in the number of communications by men who are competent to apply strictly scientific methods to the discussion of anthropological problems. But whilst a large proportion of the papers read at Bristol were undoubtedly of sterling value, and, therefore, sufficient to ensure success at any meeting, no one could shut his eyes to the fact that the exceptional success of the Bristol gathering was traceable to the admirable way in which the proceedings were conducted by the distinguished chairman. In Professor Rolleston, the anthropologists found a leader who, while coupling profound science with masterly scholarship, displayed rare tact in the management of a meeting. The general body of members of the Association is not slow in learning where the greatest attractions are to be found, and hence the audience which gathered in Professor Rolleston's department soon grew too large even for the fine room at the Royal Hotel which had been placed at our disposal. Indeed, so strong and popular were the anthropologists at Bristol, that it was suggested by the president of the Section that the time was come when anthropology should cease to hold the dependent position of a department, and should be raised to the rank of a separate section. Although this suggestion might appear on the face of it to be advantageous to our science, it was decided, after mature discussion in committee, that it would be inexpedient to recommend action in this direction. In fact it was felt that the scientific position of anthropology would be best insured by retaining its association with the older biological sciences, and that, if severed from these, there might be danger of reversion

to its pre-scientific stage. But although it was thus believed that the interests of anthropology would be best served by allowing it to retain, for some time to come, its dependence on the collateral sciences, the discussion was not allowed to close without benefit to our department; and a scheme of recommendations for facilitating its future management was drawn up by Mr. John Evans. It has been found in the practical working of the department that the committee is greatly hampered by its complete subordination to the committee of the Section. After the business which is supposed to be common to the three departments has been transacted, the time left to the sub-committee is too limited for its special work, and, consequently, the merits of the papers presented are often insufficiently discussed. Greater freedom of action has, therefore, been conceded to the sub-committee, which will, in future, be solely responsible for the internal working of the department, the sectional committee being consulted only on questions involving grants of money.

This allusion to financial matters may be fitly followed by a reference to the liberal way in which the committee of recommendations showed itself willing to forward anthropological investigations. Indeed, no fewer than five grants, involving the disposal of £350, were made on this occasion for researches bearing upon anthropology. The committee for preparing and publishing instructions to travellers was re-appointed, with Colonel Lane Fox as secretary, and a grant of £25 was made for additional expenses to be incurred in the issue of an appendix; but it should be mentioned that an almost equivalent sum will be paid to the treasurer of the association as profit on the sale of this work, and that this sum will of course be increased as the sale extends, so that eventually the work may cover its own expenses. It may be remarked in passing that the value of this volume was so fully recognised by the sectional committee that Dr. Sclater, the president, expressed a wish that a similar body of instructions might be drawn up by zoologists for the guidance of travellers willing to assist in their branch of natural history.

It is satisfactory to state that a committee has been appointed for purposes of Prehistoric Archæology, with Colonel Lane Fox as secretary, and with a grant of £25. Bearing in mind the interesting results which have recently been obtained by our president at Cissbury, there is full assurance that the grant will be profitably applied, and it is to be hoped that it will only be the forerunner of more important grants for like purposes.

The committee for exploring Kent's Cavern was re-appointed, with Mr. Pengelly as secretary, and its grant of £100 was

renewed. Although this grant goes to the account of the geological section, the anthropologists share largely in the benefit of the results, and Mr. Pengelly at the recent meeting was good enough to bring his latest researches before our department.

In like manner the Settle Caves Exploration Committee was re-appointed, with Mr. Tiddeman as secretary, and the annual grant of £50 was this year raised to £100. It is worthy of note that last year's exploration of the Victoria Cave has been unusually successful, and has yielded a remarkable collection of organic remains, which Professor Busk has described. Mr. Tiddeman concluded his report with a reference to the evidence which the cave has yielded as to the probable existence of man in Yorkshire prior to the glacial period.

In the Statistical Section, Anthropology found sufficient supporters to secure the appointment of an Anthropometric Committee, which appears to have been the direct issue of the suggestions which Dr. Beddoe made in a paper read to this Section "On the Physical Characteristics of Englishmen." The specific object of the committee, which is aided by a grant of £100, is the collection of systematic observations of the heights, weights, and other physical characters of the inhabitants of the British Isles. When it is said that Mr. Francis Galton has undertaken the secretaryship, it is unnecessary to add that valuable scientific results may be fairly expected from the labours of this committee.

In reviewing the public proceedings of the department, the first place should undoubtedly be assigned to Professor Rolleston's Address, although this was not delivered until the second day of the meeting. As it is not the practice of the Institute to print the British Association address in its Journal, it may perhaps be allowable to refer to it in this place at greater length than to any of the other communications to the department.

After some introductory observations, Professor Rolleston enumerated a few of the papers which would be submitted to the department, and in doing so was led to touch on the question of "the possibility of rescuing the inhabitants of Polynesia from that gradual sliding into extinction which some writers appear to acquiesce in as the natural fate of such races." Of this question he took a most encouraging view, looking hopefully to the future of the native races, and dropping meanwhile a cheering word to the missionary in his efforts to civilise. By quotation from Dr. Gerland, he showed that the Polynesian populations are not now suffering as rapid a decrease as in the first half of this century, and that in some localities the indigenous population is not only not diminishing, but is actually on the increase; facts which are supported by the authority of the Rev.

A. W. Murray and other residents in Polynesia. In criticising Mr. Bagehot's assertion, "that savages did not formerly waste away before the classical nations, as they do now before the modern civilised nations," Professor Rolleston reminded us that it was extremely unsafe to affirm the non-existence of a thing from the fact that we find no reference to it by contemporary writers. A citation, however, from the Book of Job, descriptive of a perishing barbarian race, was held to prove that savages must have wasted away, even at the early date of this writing.

"There is no need," says Professor Rolleston, "with such actual *veræ causæ* at hand, to postulate the working of any 'mysterious' agency, any inscrutable poisonous action 'of the breath of' civilisation. What is mysterious to me is not civilisation, but the fact that people who are in relation with it do not act up to its behests. And what is the mystery to me is not how an epidemic can, when introduced amongst helpless Polynesians, work havoc, but how it is that epidemics should be allowed to do so here in England from time to time."

Turning to the subjects of craniology and craniography, the President referred to the two opposite views which are taken of the ethnological value of skull-measuring, and pointed out what he conceived to be the true limits of this branch of inquiry. He condemned the rashness of founding ethnical conclusions on the examination of one or two skulls, and dilated on the difficulties of craniographical researches, when directed to the examination of mixed races.

"The largest result which craniometry and cubage of skulls have attained is, to my thinking," says Professor Rolleston, "the demonstration of the following facts, viz. :—first, that the cubical contents of many skulls from the earliest sepulchres from which we have any skulls at all, are larger considerably than the average cubical contents of modern European skulls; and secondly, that the female skulls of those times did not contrast to that disadvantage with the skulls of their male contemporaries which the average female skulls of modern days do, when subjected to a similar comparison.* Dr. Thurnam demonstrated the former of these facts, as regards the skulls from the Long and the Round Barrows of Wiltshire, in the 'Memoirs of the London Anthropological Society' for 1865; and the names of Les Eyzies and Cro-Magnon, and of the Caverne de l'Homme Mort, to which we may add that of Solutr , remind us that the first of these facts has been confirmed, and

* "The subequality of the male and female skulls in the less civilised of modern races was pointed out as long ago as 1845, by Retzius in M ller's 'Archiv,' p. 89, and was commented upon by Huschke, of Jena, in his Sch del, Hirn, und Seele,' pp. 48-51, in 1854."

the second both indicated and abundantly commented upon by M. Broca."

In explanation of the first of these two conclusions the President remarked that the oldest skulls with which we are acquainted are probably those of the chiefs of their tribes, and that the chiefs may have been elected to their position by virtue of their superior energy and ability. The greater brain-capacity of the chiefs may be further connected with their improved nutrition, since they generally obtain a larger share of food and material comforts than persons of ordinary rank.

With reference to the subequality of the skulls in the two sexes in prehistoric times, Prof. Rolleston cited Broca's explanation, which refers it partly to the greater severity of the struggle for existence, and partly to the less degree to which the principle of division of labour was carried out in those days. "This," says the President, "is an adequate explanation of the facts; but to the facts as already stated, I can add from my own experience the fact that though the female skulls of prehistoric times are often, they are not always equal, or nearly, to those of the male sex of those times; and, secondly, that whatever the relative size of the head, the limbs and trunk of the female portion of those tribes were, as is still the case with modern savages, very usually disproportionately smaller than those of the male."

After expressing his belief that the modern doctrine of "occipital dolichocephaly" will not bear the test of criticism, and duly rendering reasons for such belief, Prof. Rolleston enumerated some of the recent memoirs on craniology, and offered tribute to the memory of Pritchard, "the father of modern anthropology," a tribute which was peculiarly graceful in the city of Bristol, and which formed the text of some remarks by Dr. Carpenter at the conclusion of the address. A reference to the improved status of archæology, which, by its adoption of natural-history methods, is passing to the rank of a science, led Prof. Rolleston to his concluding remarks, in which he dwelt on "the possible curative application of some of the leading principles of modern anthropology to some of the prevalent errors of the day." Did space permit, it would be well to transfer the fine closing passages to these pages, but even this transference would fail to convey the effect which their brilliant delivery produced, and which was well acknowledged in the remarks of Mr. John Evans and Col. Lane Fox, in proposing and seconding the vote of thanks which the President's address so well merited.

During the five days on which the Anthropological Department held its sittings, nearly thirty papers were either read or

taken as read; but it is not the purpose of the reporter to enter into any detailed analysis of this mass of matter. At the present time the Institute is fortunate in possessing a large number of original communications, including several of great value, and it would, therefore, be unjustifiable to occupy the time of the meeting, or the pages of the Journal, with a tedious report on other people's work. In the present case, too, there is the less necessity for this course, as almost all the papers which were of real merit have been secured for the Institute—thanks to the energy of Col. Lane Fox—and will, therefore, be probably read in this room during the present session. Under these circumstances the reporter believes that he will best meet the wishes of the Council, from whom he has received instructions to draw up this report, by limiting his notice of the papers to the briefest possible references.

The proceedings of the department were opened by Mr. Pen-gelly, who pointed out an error into which Mr. Karr Callard had fallen, with reference to the cast of an implement which he had obtained from the proprietor of Brixham Cavern. It appears that the original was a stone implement from the north of Ireland, and not, as had been asserted, from Brixham. Dr. Beddoe followed with some notes on the ossuary at Rothwell, in Northamptonshire, and expressed his opinion that the bones had been removed at an early date from the churchyard. Mr. Phené discoursed on the works, manners, and customs of the early inhabitants of the Mendip Hills, and illustrated his remarks by some excellent diagrams. In a paper on prehistoric culture in India and Africa, Mr. Hyde Clarke argued in favour of an early community of culture between the two countries, basing his argument on the comparative study of the aboriginal languages of India with those of Africa.

After the delivery of Prof. Rolleston's address on Friday, Miss Buckland read an interesting paper "On Rhabdomancy and Belomancy," in which she sought to trace the origin of divination by means of rods and arrows, and regarded it as a survival of a Turanian or pre-Aryan faith, which might possibly be useful as a test of race. Mr. John Evans explained the international code of symbols which have been prepared for use on archæological maps by the sub-committee appointed at the Stockholm meeting of the Congress of Prehistoric Archæology. The results of the recent explorations in Cissbury Camp, which represent the first-fruits of the work of our Exploration Committee, were brought forward by Col. Lane Fox, whilst Prof. Rolleston described the animal remains, including the skeleton of an ancient British lady.

On Saturday morning Mr. Groom Napier read a note on the

localities whence the tin and gold of the Ancients were derived. Then followed several Indian papers, including Sir Walter Elliot's valuable communication on the original localities of the races which form the present population of India. Dr. Leitner discoursed with his usual fluency on the results of his ethnological and linguistic tour in Dardistan, and illustrated his remarks by a number of objects of ethnological interest, including a selection of his Greco-Buddhistic sculptures. Mr. Bertram Hartshorn contributed an original paper on the Veddas, whom he had studied in Ceylon; whilst Mr. Hyde Clarke discussed the Himalayan origin of the Magyar and Finn languages. The Rev. Wyatt Gill spoke briefly on the traditions of the Hervey Islanders—a people with whom he was well acquainted by long residence among them. In the absence of the author, Mr. Robert Mitchell's paper on "The Antiquity and supposed Lost Language of the Kirghiz" was taken as read.

On Monday morning Mr. Pengelly opened the proceedings by an interesting description of the archæological discoveries in Kent's Cavern. Professor Rolleston then read a short paper on "The Applicability of Historical Evidence to Ethnographical Inquiries," which was fitly followed by Canon Rawlinson's communication on "The Ethnography of the Cimbri," the author arguing in favour of their Celtic origin as stoutly as Mr. Freeman insisted on their Teutonic affinities. Finally, the Rev. Professor Earle read a paper on "The Ethnography of Scotland," in which the Danish element in the Lowland Scots was brought into prominent relief.

On Tuesday, the last day of the meeting, Mr. Mackintosh had a paper on "Anthropology, Sociology, and Nationality." Col. Carrington described the Indians of the North Western United States, delivering his remarks with great effect, and giving some interesting illustrations of gesture-language among these Indians. The Rev. Mr. Gill's note on "The Origin of the South Sea Islanders" was followed by a long memoir by Mr. Vaux on "The Probable Origin of the Maori Race," a subject on which light was thrown by the remarks of Dr. Hector, who is at present in this country. Mr. Park Harrison briefly called attention to his photographs of incised tablets from Easter Island, whilst Dr. Gladstone exhibited a flint flake which he had recently found in the brick-earth pits at Erith, in Kent. As the last day of the meeting was now well advanced, the remaining communications were taken as read. These included a paper by Mr. Wake on "The Predatory Races of Asia and Europe"; one by Mr. Hyde Clarke on "Prehistoric Names of Weapons"; another by Dr. Nicholas on "A New Paragraph in English History"; and finally, one by Mr. Hodder Westropp

on "The Cycle of Development." The proceedings closed with a warm vote of thanks to Professor Rolleston, proposed by Sir W. Elliot, and seconded by Mr. Phéné.

Although this terminated the business of the meeting, so far as the Anthropological Department itself was concerned, it may not be out of place to refer to some other ways in which the interests of our science were served at Bristol. Thus it would be ungraceful to omit reference to the handsome volume which had been prepared by the local committee in view of our visit, and was liberally presented to members of the general committee of the Association—a volume which contains a vast amount of trustworthy local information, both historical and scientific, including a chapter on the Anthropology of the district, by Dr. Beddoe. Nor should we omit allusion to the excellent arrangements of the temporary museum, under the care of Mr. J. E. Taylor, in which the objects exhibited at our meeting, such as Col. Fox's instructive model of the Cissbury excavations, might be conveniently examined at leisure.

Advantage was taken of the visit to Bristol by several anthropologists to examine some of the neighbouring prehistoric antiquities. The partial destruction of the old camp of Borough Walls, in Leigh Woods, attracted the attention of Col. Fox, who has since co-operated with Dr. Beddoe with the view of yet preserving a portion of these remains; and it is hoped that their action, supported as it has since been by the Council of the Institute, may successfully compass this end. It is perhaps not travelling beyond the reporter's province to mention that the megalithic remains of Stanton Drew, Avebury and Stonehenge, were included among the places of interest to which excursions had been organised by the local committee. But it may be fairly doubted whether much light was thrown upon prehistoric archæology by these visits. Indeed our megalithic remains appear to have been rather abused at Bristol. Thus the President of the Association, in his opening address, gave his partial adhesion to Mr. Fergusson's view of the post-Roman origin of many of these monuments; in the official programme of excursions they were all referred to under the popular designation of "Druidical remains"; and in the report of the excursion to Avebury we are told that the reverend gentleman who conducted the party gravely carried the history of the stones "as far as the time of Abraham, when he believed the Avebury pile was in its glory, a period 700 years before the Stonehenge stones had been hewn" (*Western Daily Press*, Sept. 3, 1875). This ascription of our finest megalithic remains to definite dates would hardly need remark, were it not that in certain quarters there is danger of mistaking rashness.

of ignorance for accuracy of knowledge. Such facts show that although so much has of late years been written on this subject, there is yet much need for the dissemination of what we believe to be sounder views—an end which can perhaps be nohow better effected than by a wider circulation of the publications of the Anthropological Institute.

In the discussion which followed the reading of Mr. Galton's papers, Mr. NOYES, Mr. CHARLESWORTH, Dr. RICHARD KING, Professor BUSK, and the PRESIDENT, took part. The PRESIDENT also offered some remarks upon Mr. Rudler's report, and the meeting separated.

NOVEMBER 23RD, 1875.

Colonel A. LANE FOX, *President, in the Chair.*

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

The election of J. W. SIMPSON, Esq., of Jaffna, Ceylon, as an ordinary member, was announced.

The list of presents was read and the thanks of the meeting were voted for the same :—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- From the EDITOR.—*Revue Scientifique*. Nos. 20 and 21, 1875.
- From the ASSOCIATION.—Proceedings of the Geologists' Association. Vol. IV. No. 4.
- From the REV. W. CARRUTHERS.—Photograph of the "Marias," a wild tribe living in the woods and jungle near Chanda, India.
- From the SOCIETY.—Transactions of the Watford Natural History Society. Vol. I. Part 2.
- From the AUTHOR.—Flint and Chert Implements found in Kent's Cavern, Torquay; Geology and Palæontology of Devonshire, Part II.; Memoranda, Part I. By W. Pengelly, F.R.S.
- From A. R. WALLACE, Esq.—The Dierjerie tribe of Australian Aborigines. By Samuel Gason, Police Trooper.
- From the AUTHOR.—The Indian Tribes and Languages of Costa Rica. By Wm. M. Gabb.
- From the SOCIETY.—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Part I. No. 2.; Proceedings of ditto. Nos. 7 and 8, 1875.
- From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL.—Census of the Bombay Presidency, taken on the 21st February, 1872. Part III.

The following report was read by the PRESIDENT (A. W. FRANKS, Esq., F.R.S., Vice-President, in the Chair):—