

# SCIENCE

NEW YORK, JUNE 26, 1891.

## ANTHROPOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN SCHOOLS.<sup>1</sup>

PHYSICAL anthropology has for its object the study of the human body and of its functions. It deals more particularly with the variation of form and function caused by varying conditions or founded on inherited peculiarities. This object is attained by dividing the human species into classes, which are treated separately. Such classes or groups may be founded on difference of race; they may be founded on difference of social status; they may be founded on difference of geographical surroundings or of age. The peculiarities of each group and their differences are brought to light by a statistical treatment of the individuals comprised in each class, and the causes of these differences are studied by comparing the various groups.

The differences between these groups are not confined to the adult age, but develop during the period of childhood and adolescence. Therefore the study of the latter forms a most important branch of anthropology. It appears that the differences between the classes are comparatively slight in the beginning, but develop during the period of growth, so that the adults of the various groups show much greater divergences than the children of the same groups. These differences in the adult stage may be brought about by earlier arrest of development in certain groups than in others, or by development in diverging directions. Differences of form are generally accompanied by differences of function.

From these general considerations we must conclude that a study of the anthropology of children is of the greatest importance for a knowledge of the conditions and laws of growth. It appears probable that the mode of growth of a city population and of a country population will be found different, as the adult forms show certain differences. The American child grows differently from the European child, for there exist differences between the adult American and the adult European. The child in New England grows differently from the child in Kentucky, as the adult forms of the two countries are not the same. We may also assume that the child growing up under favorable sanitary conditions will develop differently from the less fortunately situated child. Even where the adult forms are identical we may find differences during certain stages of development which may shed an important light upon questions referring to growth.

The problems which are touched upon here have a great importance to the teacher, because the functions of any organ and also of the whole body are closely related to its development and form. The nature of this correlation is by no means clear, but remains largely a matter of investigation. Nevertheless, its existence cannot be doubted. One of the most striking cases of this kind is the result obtained by Axel Key in his extended investigations in Sweden. He found that the liability to sickness decreases with increasing rate

of growth and increases with decreasing rate of growth, so that the one may be taken as the measure of the other. We know from other sources that skill in the use of certain parts of the body cannot be attained after growth has been completed, but that it must be attained during the period of development, so that the special nature of practice has an influence upon the function and probably also upon the form of the organs in the adult individuals. Piano players and rope dancers may be mentioned as instances of this kind.

The various parts of the body do not develop at the same time. Therefore we must suppose that each has its peculiar time during which it is best adapted to being trained. For these reasons the teacher has an immediate interest in the prosecution and in the results of investigations upon the bodily development of school children.

Most researches on growth have been made from purely anthropological points of view, the relation of the investigations to school work having been brought out only lately. Quetelet's investigations in Belgium were among the first that were founded on extensive material. The subject did not receive, however, great attention, until Dr. H. P. Bowditch made his classic study of the school children of Boston and vicinity. His measurements included height standing, and weight. Simultaneously Dr. Charles Roberts carried on similar investigations in England. In his work are found a considerable number of data referring to the development of the various parts of the body, some of which have been taken from Quetelet's tables. Dr. Bowditch's measurements were repeated in Milwaukee by George W. Peckham, who showed that certain important differences in the rates of growth prevail in that city and in Boston. Series of observations of less extent were made by Pagliani in Turin in 1879, by Kotelmann in Hamburg in 1877, by Daffner in the military schools of Bavaria in 1884.

Michailoff carried on an investigation on a closely allied subject in Moscow, where he studied the development of the chest, a question which was also included in Dr. Roberts's measurements. An interesting article on this work has been written by Erismann. Another investigation carried on in Kretcy, Russia, by I. A. Müller, has not been accessible to us.

Lately the superintendent of schools of Freiburg in Saxony had a series of measurements made, in order to determine the proper height of seats for scholars of various classes. The most important work of this kind, and one which claims particular attention of educationists, because it has been undertaken on a large scale and solely in the interest of schools, is the inquiry of the Royal Swedish Commission, whose work was edited by Axel Key.

All these investigations were based on statistical material, that is, on the treatment of a long series of observations, but no effort was made to follow the same individuals through a series of years. Although Vierordt claims that the former method will give just as good results as the latter, provided the number of observations is sufficiently large, it must be borne in mind that the latter method, the individual method, will give many results which the general method cannot give, and that it is the only method that will allow the education-

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Franz Boas in the Pedagogical Seminary for June.

would involve the question of a great Pacific atmospheric whirl, comparable to the supposed general movement during winter about the area of low pressure in the northern Atlantic. It would also involve a comparison of our weather here when we are in the Atlantic whirl with that which comes when the Pacific circulation pushes eastward over the mountains. There are numerous other questions involved in these observations, but they are postponed.

G. H. STONE.

Colorado Springs, Col., June 15.

#### Consecutive Lightning Flashes.

ABOUT 5.45 P.M. yesterday, while travelling over the "Jersey flats" on the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad, I saw toward the south-west no less than six strokes of lightning following the same path—a nearly vertical one—in quick succession. The number was obtained from the grouping or "phrasing," as it were, of the flashes, which impressed itself on my mind. First there was a single flash, then a group of three, and then a group of two. They followed one another so rapidly that their separate character could just be distinguished, and the duration of the six must have been less than a second. I was at first inclined to believe that the paths had been precisely the same, even to the slightest sinuosity, but I am now inclined to think that they varied slightly, and that this variation aided me in recognizing their separate character. I am not aware that so many consecutive strokes have ever been noticed before. It may be interesting to add that this morning's papers report great damage by lightning in Elizabeth, N.J., in the direction of the observed flashes.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

New York, June 17.

#### Mocking-Birds and their Young.

AN educated Southern lady made to me the following statement, which seems too extraordinary to be true. My informant honestly considers it a fact. Is it true, or is she deluded by some accident? I leave the matter for those learned in the lore of birds to decide.

My friend says that while living in Mississippi, she frequently took young mocking-birds from a nest near the house, and placed them in a cage hanging on the verandah. The parent birds came, not to feed the young, but to endeavor to liberate them, by plucking at the cage. Failing in this, my friend says that they invariably brought to their imprisoned young bitter-sweet berries, which poisoned them, the birdlings only living a very short time after receiving the berries. She further said that the captives would do well as long as the parent birds were kept from the cage, but if by any inadvertence the cage was left on the verandah while the family went into the house, on returning they would find the bitter-sweet berries in the cage, and the little fledglings in a dying state. My informant further declared that this had occurred again and again within her experience, and that her grandfather gave strict orders that no mocking-birds should be captured, as their death would certainly be effected by the old birds. This is a strange story of bird-ways, that birds should be capable of choosing for their progeny death rather than captivity! I wish some of the Southern readers of *Science* would observe in the mocking-bird direction, and give us positive and recent information from careful experiment.

JULIA MCNAIR WRIGHT.

Fulton, Mo., June 16.

#### Thunder-Storms.

It has been noticed in connection with thunder-storms in this vicinity this season that in every instance there has been an outflow of air in every direction from the storm, extending even beyond the area of precipitation and cloudiness. For example, in the case of a storm appearing upon the south-western horizon and moving due east, and passing then three or four miles south of this village, the weather-vane pointed directly toward it continuously, veering slowly from south-west to south-east, showing that the wind came steadily from the storm. The same thing also occurred in the case of a storm which appeared upon the north-

western horizon and moved eastward, passing three or four miles north of the village. In this case the vane pointed directly toward the storm throughout, the winds being quite brisk. In other instances in which the storms passed directly over the village the same thing was manifest, the vane shifting sharply from west to east as the storms passed. In previous years I have noticed the puff of wind in front of an advancing thunder-storm moving in the same direction as the storm itself and occurring just before the rain begins to fall, but my attention has never been called to such an outflow of air in every direction as has been apparent in connection with thunder-storms recently. Whatever may be its explanation, it certainly is entirely inconsistent with the idea of an indraught and uprush at the centre of the storms in which it occurs.

M. A. VEEDER.

Lyons, N.Y., June 22.

#### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*The Modalist, or the Laws of Rational Conviction.* By EDWARD JOHN HAMILTON. Boston, Ginn. 8°. \$1.40.

THE author of this work claims to have perfected the science of logic. He says in his introductory chapter: "The treatise now offered to the public is the result of long-continued studies which have had for their object to place the doctrines of logic on satisfactory foundations; and it would be false humility were the author to conceal his assurance that these studies have been successful. He claims to have completed a work which Aristotle left unfinished." And again he says, speaking of himself: "He knows what he has been enabled to do; he is certain that he has found the truth on every important point" (pp. 1 and 3).

When we come to examine the improvements that Mr. Hamilton claims to have made in the science, we find that they consist mainly in the introduction of modal syllogisms, that is, syllogisms in which the conclusion is expressed in terms of possibility, probability, or contingency, as distinguished from the ordinary, or pure, syllogism, in which the conclusion is categorical. Such syllogisms were treated of by Aristotle, but modern logicians have rejected them as not properly belonging to the science, since possibility, probability, etc., belong, not to the form of thought, but to its matter. They are properties, not of our thought, but of the facts and events that we think about, and therefore have no proper place in a work on theoretical logic. Mr. Hamilton, however, gives such modal syllogisms the foremost place among the forms of reasoning, affirming that "the pure syllogism is the secondary mode of thought, and should be interpreted by the modal." Yet he immediately adds that the pure syllogism "is the best expression of our ordinary reasonings" (p. 262), an admission which is fatal to his whole theory.

Another of Mr. Hamilton's innovations consists in treating the principle of antecedent and consequent, which lies at the basis of the hypothetical syllogism, as the first principle of all reasoning, even in the ordinary syllogism. Such a turning of logic topsy-turvy as Mr. Hamilton proposes seems to us the reverse of an improvement, and we believe it will be so regarded by thinkers generally.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

AN illustrated article by Edwin Checkley, which introduces some of his new theories of physical culture, forms one of the features of the July *Lippincott*.

— Among its contents the *Chautauquan* for July has the following: "A Symposium — Where Should a College be Located?" by Julius H. Seelye, Henry Wade Rogers, James B. Angell, Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen, W. R. Harper, and Herbert B. Adams; "Modern Methods of Treating Inebriety," by H. R. Chamberlain; "Objections to College Training for Girls," by Emily F. Wheeler; and "Elizabeth Thompson, the Philanthropist," by Frances E. Willard.

— The publishers of the *Illustrated American* of this city announce a *Monthly Illustrated American*. The monthly has been planned for over a year, and is offered to the public as "the cheapest and best illustrated magazine in the world." It is com-