

The "Australoid" and "Negroid" Races.

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The light which the examination of man's physical form can throw on ethnological problems is a very debateable one. It is, however, of great importance to study every possible form of evidence in the hope that even data, which at first seem remote, may eventually prove of value in the elucidation of ethnological problems. The difficulties are considerable. In the first place, in this age of increasing specialization, ethnology and physical anthropology are drifting apart, and the students of the one are not always in a position to appreciate the problems of the other. Moreover, in discussing prehistoric races, we may have to call in yet other expert witnesses, geologists, archaeologists, and even meteorologists, and eventually we may be so surrounded by a cloud of witnesses that their evidence may like the arrows of the Persians only serve to darken the sun. In this paper I propose to deal with certain questions concerning the so-called Australoid and Negroid peoples and to leave out, except where it is absolutely necessary, any reference to any other races of mankind.

First as to method physical anthropologists are by no means agreed. The anatomical school, without neglecting other sides, are primarily concerned with morphological considerations. Trained in the medical schools, but to a large extent inheriting their anthropological tradition from BROCA, they have been for the most part interested in the description and comparison of man's anatomical characters. Many of the great German schools, founded originally by VIRCHOW, and for various reasons representing a rather separate tradition, have laid a great stress on measurements on the living, and although this side has been carried out systematically in France and Italy and spasmodically in England, it has been most practised in Germany. Workers of all nations have measured the living all the world over, but there has been a recent tendency by some writers rather to deprecate the value of such work. A very different tradition has been inaugurated by the Biometric School under Professor KARL PEARSON. Being mathematicians rather than anatomists they followed the methods in measurement of the German more than the English and French anatomists. They have collected together in a precise and minute way most of the published material, and have submitted it to statistical tests. It is unfortunate, but perhaps inevitable, that the very technical nature of their publications has prevented the use being made of their work which would otherwise have been made.

In this paper I shall try and see what light can be thrown on the problems before us by the work of the various schools, and I should like here