

intermingling between the Melanesian and Polynesian races. On a closer examination I always found that such men were covered from head to foot with an inveterate form of body ringworm—a scaly skin-eruption, which affects in a greater or less degree quite two-fifths of the natives of this part of the group—and that in all their other physical characters they belonged to the Melanesian type. In its most aggravated and chronic condition this parasitical disease implicates the skin to such a degree that the rapid desiccation and desquamation of the epidermal cells lead to a partial decoloration of the deeper parts of the cuticle, as though the rate of the production of pigment was less rapid than the rate of its removal in the desquamative process.

The hair of the head is generally black, frizzly, and bushy; more particularly amongst the younger adults of both sexes this last character prevails. Amongst middle-aged men I have sometimes observed that the hair arranges itself into entangled corkscrew-like spirals,



FIG. 1.—Native of Santa Anna (an island off the east extremity of St. Christoval). The round disk of wood in the lobe of the ear should be quite white, the dark spots being due to the imperfections of the dry plate. The faint linear markings on the cheek due to a form of tattoo are rarely well marked.

the whole head of hair having much the appearance of a mop placed erect on its handle. Now and then, though rarely, the hair shows a tendency to become straight; I met with one such native near Cape Keibeck, on the north coast of St. Christoval; and I am informed that straight-haired varieties do exist among the hill-tribes in the interior of the island. With regard to the amount of hair on the face, limbs, and body, great diversity is observed amongst natives of the same village. Epilation is commonly employed, but there can be no doubt that the development of hair varies quite independently of such a custom. Out of ten men taken promiscuously from any village, perhaps five would have smooth faces, three would possess a small growth of hair on the chin and upper lip, the ninth would wear a beard, a moustache, and whiskers of moderate growth, whilst the tenth would present a shaggy beard and a hairy visage. The surfaces of the body and limbs are as a rule comparatively free from hair; but hairy men are to be met with in most

villages; and on one occasion when in the vicinity of Cape Surville—the eastern extremity of St. Christoval—I visited a village where the proportion of hairy-bodied, hairy-visaged men was in excess of the smooth-skinned element.

From my measurements the form of the skull would appear to be mesocephalic: the cephalic indices ranged between 73 and 82—the greater number of them being included between 74 and 77. The facial angle varied in amount between 85° and 90°. The nose is generally straight, coarse, and somewhat short, the nostrils wide, and the bridge depressed in some instances. Not uncommonly the nose is arched or aquiline; out of fifty natives amongst whom I took especial notice of this feature, I found that ten possessed an aquiline nose. The countenances of the younger of both sexes are often prepossessing, and amongst the adults I have frequently met with men of some intellectual expression.

Such are some of the leading physical characters of the natives of this part of the Solomon group. To the inhabitants of the small island of Santa Anna, which lies off the east extremity of St. Christoval, the same description will apply; but we find in the still smaller adjacent island of Santa Catalina a subvariety of the Melanesian type characterised by a lighter colour and probably a greater height, although I made no measurements there. The few natives which I saw belonging to the large island of Malayta, which we did not visit, resembled in appearance those of St. Christoval; and from a few measurements and observations which I made in the Florida subgroup, where the St. Christoval type prevails, it was evident that thus far to the westward the same description of a native of the Solomon Islands was equally applicable. The large neighbouring island of Guadalcanar I had no opportunity of visiting. In the small island of Simbo, further to the west, I found no important difference in the physical characters of the natives except perhaps a rather darker shade of colour. Proceeding westward as far as Treasury Island, our furthest point in that direction, we for the first time came upon a distinct variation in the type of native—a difference which has been a subject for remark even by such usually unobservant people as the masters of trading ships. In their greater height and in the almost black colour of the skin, the natives of Treasury Island are at once distinguished from the prevailing native type to the eastward. Their features are more finely cut, and the form of the skull, as shown by the cephalic indices, is more brachycephalic—the range of seven measurements being 78 to 84, and the mean cephalic index 81. In some individuals the cheekbones were prominent and the foreheads retreating. As a race the Treasury Islanders are said to evince a fiercer disposition than do the natives in the eastern islands of the Solomon group. The natives of the large adjacent island of Bougainville have the reputation of being amongst the most daring and warlike of the inhabitants of this archipelago; and probably the examination of their physical characters will exhibit them as a more pronounced type of the Treasury Islanders.

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H.M.S. *Lark*, Auckland, N.Z., February 27

ON A FINE SPECIMEN OF APATITE FROM
TYROL, LATELY IN THE POSSESSION OF
MR. SAMUEL HENSON

THE specimen of apatite represented in the diagram was submitted to my inspection by Mr. Henson last November, and is the most beautiful specimen of this mineral which I have seen. The faces observed were not, however, determined on the specimen itself, but from a plaster cast and a smaller specimen with which Mr. Henson supplied me. From these latter approximate measurements of some of the more prominent angles were obtained by means of a contact-goniometer, which,

