

of a very large number of tables showing the distribution of the colour of hair and eyes according to the "index of nigrescence," and to a less extent to the head-forms, from the author's personal observations; and of second series of colour of hair and eyes of military deserters illustrated by maps constructed on the plan of the Anthropometric Committee. There are also tables showing the relation between complexion and disease collected at the Bristol Infirmary; and numerous illustrations are given showing the physiognomy of males and females which the author believes to be typical of the various racial elements at present surviving among us.

Of the conclusions which Dr. Beddoe draws from all these observations it is impossible to give a summary here. He examines the whole country, district by district and county by county, from the Shetlands to Cornwall, and the reader must consult the work itself to see how far the author has succeeded in the task he has set himself, and to what extent he has prepared a solid platform for his successors in the same field of inquiry. It is most probable that Dr. Beddoe's conclusions, based as they are on a minute acquaintance with the history of the conquests and settlements of the country, and on a wide personal survey of the population in most stationary situations, will be accepted by anthropologists as the best results and the nearest approach to the truth which is attainable at the present day. On the other hand it is doubtful whether Dr. Beddoe's confidence in colour as a permanent racial character will bear the test of future inquiry, and whether his method will be accepted as sufficient when the questions of prepotency of stock, relative viability of dark and blond persons, and the influence of sexual selection have been more completely investigated. The Jews of Europe are isolated and preserved as a separate race by the sterility or low fertility of their mixed marriages, and the question of hybridism in the human race has received little attention from anthropologists. The function of reproduction is the most highly specialised and the most easily disturbed, and it is probable that the dying out of races is due more to this cause than to the "vices of civilisation" to which they are commonly attributed. American statistics show that the blond type is more subject to all the diseases, except one (chronic rheumatism), which disqualify men for military service, and this must obviously place blonds at a great disadvantage in the battle of life, while the popular saying, "a pair of black eyes is the delight of a pair of blue ones," shows that sexual selection does not allow them to escape from it. It is more than probable, therefore, from all these considerations, that the darker portion of our population is gaining on the blond, and this surmise is borne out by Dr. Beddoe's remark that the proportion of English and Scotch blood in Ireland is probably not less than a third, and that the Gaelic and Iberian races of the west, mostly dark-haired, are tending to swamp the blond Teutonic of England by a reflex migration—a fact not without significance to others than anthropologists at the present time.

The "Races of Britain" gives a very imperfect idea to those who are unacquainted with such inquiries, of the labour, time and thought expended on its production, but anthropologists who know how to estimate such work at

its full value will welcome it with great satisfaction as the most exhaustive account of the ethnology of our country which has appeared in recent years.

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OUR BOOK SHELF

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THE second part of the current number of this *Journal* opens with the second instalment of Mr. Fream's report upon Canadian agriculture. The climate, soil, and products of Eastern Canada, comprising the better-known States of Ontario, Quebec, and the maritime provinces, are chiefly dealt with, whereas, in the first report, prairie farming, and the almost untrodden regions of the north-west were particularly dealt with. The principal object of the report is to show the capabilities and rapid progress of Canada, and this is achieved by numerous statistics as to production and exports. In these provinces the first fertility of the soil has been in a great degree exhausted, and as a consequence mixed farming with the maintenance of live stock, and the use of improved processes, is taking the place of consecutive corn-growing. The growth of the dairy industry is a remarkable fact, and in the management of their cows and the manipulation of the products of the dairy, more attention is apparently paid to the teachings of science than is usual in the mother country. The exports of cheese have increased from 6,000,000 pounds per annum in 1870, to 76,000,000 pounds in 1884. The butter trade has long been stationary, owing to the uncertain demand for Canadian butter. The Canadian cattle trade has also increased by leaps and bounds from a gross number of 6940 head in 1877, to 61,843 in 1884. The report is full of details of personal experience gained from many settlers in all parts of Old Canada. Names and addresses of the principal farmers, dairymen, and stock-breeders, are given with great frequency, and confer a special value on the report as a guide to intending settlers.

A large portion of the *Journal* is occupied with official reports of the Preston meeting of the Society (1885), including the report upon the prize farms in Lancashire. These last reports are less interesting than usual to practical men, as the Lancashire farmers are exceptionally placed, and conduct their business upon suburban principles of management. The sale of farm produce directly to the town consumer and the carrying back of town manure is the marked feature. Rents appear to range particularly high for the present depressed state of trade and agriculture, and are generally from fifty to sixty shillings per acre.

The customary reports of the Steward upon live stock and implements, and short memoirs of the late Sir B. T. B. Gibbs and Sir Watkin W. Wynn, close this section. A summary of the Commission's Report on Technical Education, 1884, and a reprint from the Report of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, 1883, occupy some fifty pages, the latter reviving M. Guénon's curious theory with regard to indications of milking properties in the peculiar distribution of hair on the buttocks, known as the "escutcheon."

Among original articles indicating research, those of Miss E. Ormerod on the ox-warble and the warble maggot, of Prof. Robertson upon rickets in sheep, and of Mr. Clement Stephenson upon abortion in cows may be mentioned. Lastly, the number contains a contribution from Rothamsted upon the valuation of unexhausted manures, in which the results of past experiments are brought to bear upon the claims of outgoing tenants for compensation under recent Acts of Parliament.