

The Study of Mankind

L'Espèce humaine

Encyclopédie française, Tome 7. Pp. 574 + 40. (Paris : Comité de l'Encyclopédie française ; Libr. Larousse, 1936.) 125 francs.

FOUR sumptuous volumes of this encyclopædic work have already appeared within a year under the general direction of Prof. Lucien Febvre. A total of twenty-one volumes is projected, including one of bibliography and one of indexes. The previous volumes are entitled "L'Etat Moderne", "Littératures et Arts Contemporaines"; and the present one, "L'Espèce Humaine", is edited by Dr. Paul Rivet with the collaboration of M. Paul Lester and the aid of fourteen contributors. It has been issued in fifty-five fascicles, the complete quarto volume having a heavy black leather binding case.

The volume under notice is a discussion of anthropology in the widest sense, its three parts being devoted to (1) humanity to-day; (2) the question of peoples or races, including the notion of race, human palæontology, race crossing and the problem of classification; (3) population statistics and demography. Part I is richly illustrated with figures of human types and their activities, and begins with a historical discussion of what ethnology is. The various methods by which primitive implements were produced are described and illustrated in detail, as well as the uses of agglutinants, fibres, barks, fluids, etc. Other chapters are concerned with the social structure and supernatural beliefs of primitive peoples as well as their languages.

A chapter of twenty pages is devoted to the evolution of the idea of race, with illustrations from fossil skulls as well as from modern man. In another chapter, the biological phenomena of race are considered at length, and an attempt is made to introduce genetical conceptions. But although some French writers give Naudin credit equally with Mendel for the discovery of Mendelian inheritance, yet French investigators of heredity have always been few, and the bearing of genetical principles has not yet been widely grasped, especially in anthropology. In the present account the view still survives that mutations apply only to superficial characters, and that segregation in racial crosses frequently fails to occur, for example in negro-white crosses. The conception of duplicate factors and of linkage are conspicuous by their absence, the 15 : 1 ratio is regarded as contrary to Mendel's laws, and the significance of the

numerous 1 : 1 ratios for a dominant abnormality crossed with the normal condition is not clearly stated. It is to be hoped that anthropologists will soon recognize more fully that genetical principles apply to man as extensively as they apply to animals and plants. In this connexion, the short account of the blood groups might have been greatly extended to indicate their racial significance.

The white Indians of San Blas are recognized as of mutational origin, but the author hastens to add that he uses the term in a very different sense from the geneticists. The latter, on the contrary, regard these Indians equally as an excellent example of mutation.

The chapter on fossil men contains many interesting views. The Australian aborigines are regarded as the most archaic of living peoples and are classified as belonging to the same species as Neanderthal man; but since the Australians cross with other modern peoples, it is suggested that Neanderthal and modern man must all be merged into one species—an extreme example of the application of the interfertility rule, which modern botanists and zoologists have dispensed with as a necessary criterion of species.

Aurignacian culture is regarded as represented by three races in Europe—Cro-Magnon, Grimaldi and Chancelade—which are all believed to have left modern descendants and to show affinities respectively with the white, black and yellow divisions of living man. A surviving Cro-Magnon type is seen not only in the Guanches on the Canary Islands but also in south-western France, especially the Dordogne, whence it may be traced across the Iberian peninsula. Similarly a modern Grimaldi type is recognized in various parts of northern Italy and the Rhone valley.

Two chapters on miscegenation are followed by a section on the problem of racial classification in which the views of Deniker and of Haddon receive fullest consideration.

Part III is a consideration of population and demographic questions from practically every point of view, including numerous statistics clearly set forth, with discussion of many problems relating to the present and past population of the earth.

The general reader, as well as the specialist, will find in this work ample material, whatever his special interest in man may be or whatever the point he wishes to elucidate. The abundant pages (72) of illustrations include several coloured plates.

R. RUGGLES GATES.