



Beitrage zur Anthropologie Elsass-Lothringens by G. Schwalk; Ernest Heft; Die Schadelformen der Elsassischen Bevolkerung in Alter und Neuer Zeit by Edmund Blind

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This is not the first time that Mr. MacRitchie has touched on the Pechts; but we note with satisfaction that he has now dropped certain arguments which seemed to us, so far from helping him, to have been prejudicial to his position. J. R.

THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE NORTH-WESTERN SOLOMON ISLANDS. By R. Parkinson.

Herr R. Parkinson has an unique knowledge of several districts of Melanesia, and he has recently contributed a very valuable paper on the Ethnography of the North-Western Solomon Islands to the *Abhandl. u. Berichte d. K. Zool. u. Anthropol. Mus. zu. Dresden*, Bd. VII, 1899. In Buka there are two clans which take the name of their totems. These are the Fowl and the Frigate-bird; one clan must marry into the other. In North Bougainville the same obtains, but in South Bougainville and in the neighbouring islands there are a number of bird clans; here a member of a clan may marry a member of any other clan except that to which he or she belongs. In all cases the children belong to their mother's clan.

Interesting information is given about ceremonies in which masks are employed. The important *Rukruk* custom (sometimes also called *burri*) is described; it takes place in a tabued clearing in the bush, where there is a sacred hut; here the bull-roarer is whirled, and the women believe that the initiates (*matasesen*) have converse with the male and the female spirit (*ruk*).

The long hair of the initiates is cut off, but as a rule a long lock is left on the nape, the end of which is decorated with beads or a shell. After the ceremony the *matasesen* may choose a wife. Parkinson compares the Solomon Island *ruleruk* with the *dudduk* of the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain, where, however, the bull-roarer is unknown. Cannibalism is not so universally spread as is believed. Scarification occurs all over the district; it enhances personal attraction in both sexes. As Parkinson deals with music, houses, clothing, ornaments, money, utensils, weapons, canoes, fishing, etc., it will be apparent that this memoir is of considerable importance, especially when one remembers that the author has peculiar facilities for gaining trustworthy information. A. C. H.

BEITRÄGE ZUR ANTHROPOLOGIE ELSSASS-LOTHRINGENS. Herausgegeben von Dr. G. Schwalk, Professor der Anatomie an der Universität Strassburg. ERSTES HEFT. *Die Schädelformen der Elssässischen Bevölkerung in Alter und Neuer Zeit.* Von Dr. Edmund Blind. ZWEITES HEFT. *Die Körpergrösse der Wehrpflichtigen des Reichslandes Elsass-Lothringen.* Von Dr. S. Brandt.

This work, of which the first two instalments are now available, will comprise a complete inquiry into the physical characteristics of the inhabitants of the German frontier provinces. Such a work comparable to that done by Ammon and Ecker in the Rhine Provinces, by Ranke in Bavaria, and by Topinard, Collignon, and many others in France, is of the utmost value to the anthropologist. Elsass-Lothringen having been from time immemorial one of the great battle grounds of Europe, it is surprising that the anthropological landmarks should remain as distinct as they do.

In the first part Dr. Blind gives a detailed account of some 700 skulls, mostly dating from the 14th-16th centuries, obtained from various ossuaries in Elsass. He concludes that in the main they indicate that at this period a brachycephalic, leptorhine, and megaseme population was spread out over the Vosges, mixed here and there with long-skulled elements coming from across the Rhine valley. The skulls of this people closely resemble, if indeed they are not identical with, those of Celts from Auvergne described by Broca, and those of the broad band of brachycephalous

individuals which stretches across the Alps from the lake of Geneva to the borders of inner Austria.

In the hills a nearly pure black-haired, dark-eyed, small-built people, with a peculiar patois can still be distinguished, though in the plains and towns the populace is very mixed. His paper is illustrated by tables, reproductions of skulls, and a useful sketch map.

In the second part Dr. Brandt has worked out a lengthy series of investigations into the height of the population, canton by canton, comprising altogether observations on 105,561 individuals.

In his summary he shows that the highest average height is met with to the East in the Rhine Valley and to the south, while in the centre, near the summits of the Vosges, the average cantonal height falls considerably. A sudden rise in average height in the cantons of Münster and Wruzenheim he explains by the comparatively recent immigration of Swiss dairy farmers into the fertile pasturage of the valley of the Fecht.

The author concludes that in the northern part of this district one meets traces of Franks, in the Rhine Valley of Alemanni, and to the south of Burgundians, who have forced their smaller and weaker predecessors to take refuge in the inhospitable depths of the forests clothing the slopes of the Vosges mountains.

Dr. Brandt traces the history of Elsass-Lothringen from the stone age to the present time, and has profusely illustrated his monograph by maps and tables.

F. C. SHRUBSALL.

PUBLIC MUSEUM OF WANGANUI, NEW ZEALAND. Fourth Annual Report of the Hon. Curator. 8vo, pp. 32, photographic illustrations. Wanganui, N.Z., 1899. (Presented by the Curator.)

The Trustees of this Institution are to be congratulated on the rapid progress made during the last twelve months. In this period the size of the Museum has been doubled, and much valuable material added by presentations. The Curator, however, complains that want of funds prevents him from adding to the already valuable Maori collections by purchase, but at the same time, where possible, he is anxious to make exchanges with other museums.

The Report contains illustrations of the new buildings and of some of the Maori exhibits, together with a full list of donors, numbering 140, from 1st July, 1898, to 30th June, 1899.

J. E. P.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PREHISTORIC ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHEOLOGY.

The twelfth International Congress of Prehistoric Anthropology and Archæology will be held in Paris at the Collège de France between August 20th and 25th, and the opening session, in the Palais des Congrès of the Paris Exhibition.

The President of the Congress is M. Alexandre Bertrand, member of the Institute, and Keeper of the Museum of National Antiquities at St. Germain-en-Laye; the General Secretary, Dr. R. Verneau, of the National Museum of Natural History, (Rue Broca 148); and the Treasurer, M. Henri Hubert, to whom application for membership, and payments of subscriptions should be addressed.

It is hoped that the Anthropological Institute may be fully represented in the proceedings of the Congress, and in the numerous excursions which are contemplated to French sites in Brittany, and Central and Southern France.

The following provisional programme of discussion has been issued by the Organising Committee:—