

THE RACES OF EUROPE.*

Dr. Ripley has done a great service, both to general readers and anthropologists, in preparing his work, "The Races of Europe." Nowhere are there more difficult ethnological questions than in Europe: nowhere is it more desirable to have clear ideas than in that field. True, much has been written regarding the physical anthropology of the Continent; the mass of literature on the subject is really appalling. But what has been written has been from the local standpoint. The race types of a state or governmental district have, in many cases, been worked out with wonderful care and patience. But their relation to the types of other districts, the race types of the continent as a whole, these were questions which were but badly, if at all, answered. It was to present a general view, to combine and correlate the local data so as to arrive at grander results, that our author has labored.

Race is but one of the elements which has made European populations what they are today. Dr. Ripley states this plainly. Still the title of his book itself warrants our confining our review to that single element. "A type is a combination of characters." A race type should be a definite combination of characters, frequently recurring and persistent in time. To define types, characters must first be studied. Dr. Ripley bases his European race types upon three characters — head form, color, stature. Heads are long and narrow or short and broad — dolichocephalic or brachycephalic. Persons are blond or brunette — light or dark in complexion, hair color, and eye color. They are tall or short. Having studied the range of variation within each of these three characters and investigated their distribution, our author works out three race types to which he gives the names Teutonic, Alpine, and Mediterranean. The Teutonic is dolichocephalic, blond,

tall; and tall; the Alpine is brachycephalic, brunette, and medium; the Mediterranean is dolichocephalic, dark, and short. In a general way the three types are geographically located, from North to South in the order named. Careful study of the populations of every part of Europe shows that any one of these types rarely exists alone. Usually two, sometimes all three, are found together — sometimes separate and approximately pure, but generally more or less mixed. Parts of Scandinavia are almost purely Teutonic; most of Italy is Mediterranean. In France all three of the types assist in making up the population.

We cannot follow Professor Ripley's interesting discussion in detail. He investigates a variety of important historical, political, and sociological questions. Even from this brief review, it will be seen that his book is of great importance. It will greatly advance study. A pioneer work (from the present standpoint of science), it can hardly reach final conclusions on all points. To indicate the possible divergence from its conclusions, we may mention the work of Deniker, of Paris. This deals with the same subject and practically by the same method. Yet Deniker defines ten — and not three — European types. Later students will probably come to an agreement upon some intermediate number.

Ripley considers his Mediterranean Race of African origin. He suggests that the Teutonic Race may have developed from it under the influence of a peculiar environment. The Alpine, he appears to think, is an Asiatic immigrant which has wedged in between the other two. Whatever their origin, three such different physical types must differ in mental and moral characters. Each must affect, with its own peculiar color, the communities of which it forms a part or to which it has contributed by mixture.

While, of necessity, Dr. Ripley's book is a compilation and claims to be no more, it is a compilation into which personality has so entered as to make it new matter. The author is especially to be praised for three important helps, which multiply many times the value of the simple text. These are the maps, the portraits, and the bibliography. A series of interesting and instructive maps of Europe and the different countries of Europe show the geographical distribution of race characters and race types. A collection of more than two hundred portraits present (a) typical characters, (b) race types, (c) the types of each

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country. A notable "selected bibliography" of about two thousand titles directs the student to a vast, little known, and widely scattered literature.

In remembering the excellence of his general idea, his diligence in carrying it into execution, his ingenuity in devising and securing illustrative and graphic material, and his scholarship in bibliographic work, we must forgive the author for frequently unhappy forms of statement and obscure expressions.

FREDERICK STARR.