

it was at first thought that the experiments were not unfavourable to alcohol. The authors point out the very great practical importance of these observations, since they indicate that a vast number of people who only drink alcohol in moderation must be demonstrably in the early stages of chronic alcoholism.

Schneider has made very interesting attempts by the simplest method to study perception and attention in senile demented. The chief point to which he attaches importance is their very marked inability to give attention to new impressions, even when they appear to be quite capable of observing objects. He thinks this may be important in diagnosis.

Lindley continues the investigations of Amberg, Rivers, and Kraepelin into the relations between rest and work. The most notable result of his observations seems to be the very marked individual differences among healthy adults in the amount of rest required after half an hour's work.

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*Origin and Character of the British People.* By N. C. MACNAMARA, F.R.C.S. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1900, pp. 242, 8vo.

Mr. Macnamara, who had prepared himself for the task by his anthropological investigations in India and elsewhere, has here attempted to analyse the racial elements of the British people, and to ascertain the relationship of those elements to the chief races of the world.

He sets out by summarising the main features of the finds of relics of prehistoric man, more especially in Western Europe and Great Britain; this excellent account is well illustrated, considerable use having been made of the neglected wealth of anthropological material in the College of Surgeons.

He then traces what he conceives to be the anthropological history of Western Europe in general, and Great Britain in particular, from early neolithic times, when our islands were peopled by short, probably dark, long-headed people, of the Iberian or Afro-European stock. Then came an invasion of tall, probably fair, long-heads, of much greater mental development, who lorded it over the Iberians; the Cro-Magnon remains belonged to these people whom Mr. Macnamara calls Aryans and associates with Asia. Then came tall broad-heads, probably fair, from the direction of the Baltic; these were a northern Mongoloid race, and the author thinks that we may find their present representatives in the Finns. Finally came the short, dark broad-heads: these were the southern Mongoloids; they had affinities with the Burmese and they brought bronze with them. Subsequent invasions belong to historic time and introduced no new racial element.

It may be noted that Mr. Macnamara's account cannot be said at every point to harmonise with the opinion of recent anthropological authorities. In insisting on the importance of the Iberian element as a primary British stock he is on safe ground; but in assuming, without discussion, that the Cro-Magnon people were a perfectly distinct "Aryan" race from Asia, he is departing from the tendency of recent

anthropological research. He seems to rely chiefly on the test of stature, but this is now regarded as the least reliable of anthropological tests. It is the more remarkable that he should have thus followed unquestioningly the old Aryan theory, since the book is dedicated to Prof. Ripley, while many other writers who utterly reject that theory are frequently quoted with respect. In emphasising the Mongolian influence Mr. Macnamara is, on the other hand, much more in harmony with the trend of recent work, and his account of these Mongoloid racial elements seems to overcome various difficulties.

An interesting feature of the book is the attempt to trace the chief traits of the British character to a source in these primary elements, differently intermingled in different parts of our islands. Thus the Iberians are a proud, courteous, ostentatious, impulsive, but unreliable people, insisting on "popular rights" and fond of music. These Spanish and North African qualities were described seven hundred years ago by Giraldus, as characterising his Welsh fellow-countrymen, and the account of Giraldus still holds good to-day. The Burmese have been called "the Irish of the East," and the author believes that this is accounted for by real racial affinity. The southern Mongolians are essentially a religious race, loving their homes and their lands; while very sensitive and very hospitable, they are at the same time indolent and unstable; such characteristics are common in Ireland and also in the Celtic Highlands of Europe as we proceed towards Asia. The Teutons and other "Aryans" furnish the domineering, self-reliant, warlike, and yet slow and laborious traits.

Everyone who follows up any line of psychological work sooner or later finds himself confronted by puzzling questions concerning the influence of race on psychical and physical characteristics. Such a book as this (supplementing the careful but more general works of such authorities as Ripley, Sergi, Deniker, and Keane), while not always conclusive, will be found helpful in suggesting answers to these questions. It is throughout clearly written, and is not encumbered by unnecessary technicalities.

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*Stachyologie weitere vermischte Aufsätze* [*Stachyology and other Miscellaneous Essays*]. Von P. J. MÖBIUS. Leipzig, 1901. Octavo, pp. 219. Price 4 marks, 80.

We guess that *Stachyologie* means stray ears of corn gathered together, both nourishment and chaff. The twelve essays bound together all deal more or less directly with questions in metaphysics and psychology. Some of them are of no great interest, but on the whole the book is a credit to the author. Möbius has a good style—a quality rare with German authors, and his power of expression is not greater than his power of thought. He begins his preface by observing that a hundred years have passed away since the birth of Fechner, and he hopes that the coming century will pay more attention to his writings than the past. "Fechner wished to satisfy both the necessities of the reason and those of the affections, and his way is the only one possible for both. But the believers turned away because they did not want