Dr. Humphrey concludes his comments upon these cases with the hopeful consideration that the result of the investigation is found to be that "the means most suited for prolonging life . . . are the means best calculated to turn it to good account and to make it happy."

THE MELANESIAN RACES AND LANGUAGES.

SOME of the most perplexing problems of ethnology are encountered in Oceanica. As is well known, this vast island world, stretching eastward from south-eastern Asia far into the Pacific ocean, is commonly divided into five geographical provinces, — Malaisia, or the East Indian archipelago, extending from the Straits of Malacca to New Guinea; Melanesia, comprising New Guinea and the groups east of it to the Fiji Islands; Polynesia, including the islands of the southern and eastern Pacific, from New Zealand to the Hawaiian group; Micronesia, the range of small islands in the North Pacific, east of the Philippines; and Australasia, comprising Australia and Tasmania. The tribes that inhabit these various regions differ in all the traits which are supposed to indicate distinction of race. The Malays are short, with light-brown complexion, straight black hair, and small Siamese features. The Polynesians are tall, of clear yellow hue, with wavy black hair, and handsome, almost European countenances. Of the swarthy Melanesians, some, like the Papuans, are tall, with prominent, aquiline features, and frizzled locks; others, like the Negritos and Samangs, are short, with woolly or tufted hair. The Australians are black or reddish brown, with negroid features and wavy or crispy hair; while south of them the now extinct Tasmanians had similar features and complexion, with completely woolly hair. The question to be decided is, Do all these tribes belong to one race, or to two, or to many? Ethnologists of the highest ability and attainments — Crawford, Pritchard, Huxley, Wallace, Lesson, Von der Gabelentz, Winchell, and many others — have taken part in the discussion, and we seem as far from a definite conclusion as ever.

The latest and perhaps the most valuable contribution yet made to the evidence on this subject is the comprehensive and profound work of the Rev. Dr. Codrington on the Melanesian languages. The materials for the work were gathered during many years of missionary labor spent chiefly on Norfolk Island, in the Melanesian mission-school of the Anglican church. Australasia is not included within the scope of the work, and New Guinea is only noticed in some incidental allusions; but all the groups lying east of that island, and extending from New Ireland southward to New Caledonia, and eastward to Rotuma and the limits of Polynesia, are illustrated by it. No less than thirty-four languages and dialects are carefully described, and are compared with one another and with the idioms of Melanesia and Polynesia, as well as with the language of Madagascar, which, as is well known, belongs to the Malayo-Polynesian family. Dr. Codrington is an Oxford scholar, versed in classical studies, and familiar with the methods and results of philological research. To a student of linguistic science it is no small pleasure to peruse a work in which the laws of the science, as they have been wrought out by the ablest minds in the study of the Indo-European and Semitic tongues, are applied with a happily illuminating effect to the languages of these barbarous tribes.

The first result is to raise considerably our opinion of the quality of the languages, and our estimate of the intellect of those who speak them. The author finds these idioms remarkably copious. Of this fact he gives an interesting illustration from his own experience with one of them, — that of the island of Mota, of which many of the pupils in the Norfolk Island school were natives. "After some twelve years' acquaintance with the language, talking, teaching, and translating," he writes, "and after having acquired, more or less correctly, a considerable vocabulary of Mota words, I began to buy words that I did not know at the rate of a shilling a hundred from the scholars at Norfolk Island. I left off when lists of three thousand words unknown to me had come in. It is certain that elder natives living at Mota use many words hardly known to those who have gone away from their own island as boys, and that the boys had by no means exhausted their stock. I calculate, therefore, that there were probably as many words still to come as would bring up my vocabulary to at least six thousand words. Of these, many, of course, are compound and derivative; but they are distinct words. This concerns a small island, with less than a thousand inhabitants, with whom European intercourse began within the memory of living men." This fulness, it should he added, is not merely in names of objects and actions. Purely abstract terms are common, and are formed by a system of derivation as clear and regular as that of the Greek or the Sanscrit. Thus from *toga* ('to abide') we have *togara* ('behavior') and *togava* ('station'). *Nonom* ('to think') yields *nonomia* ('thought'); and

The Melanesian languages. By R. H. CODRINGTON. Oxford, *Clarendon pr.*, 885. 8°. (New York, Macmillan.)

tape ('to love') has for its noun *tapeva* ('love'). As Dr. Codrington remarks, "the presence of abstract words like these, among people of whom it is said 'that they are unable to conceive an abstract idea,' is worthy of notice."

A no less important result brought out by this work is the clear proof it presents that all these languages are nearly allied, and that they all belong to the Malayo-Polynesian family. Of this fact, no one who examines the excellent comparative grammar and the extensive vocabularies given in this volume can entertain a doubt. The question at once arises, How shall we explain this singular connection of speech between tribes so widely different in physical traits?

Three explanations have been offered. The first supposes that all these islands were originally occupied by one race, — a yellow or light-brown people, with straight hair, — and that the differences have been caused, in the course of ages, by the slow effects of climate and other natural influences. In this view, Oceanica would be a microcosm, repeating within its limits the ethnological phases which the world at large has displayed on a wider scale. A second theory is that which is favored by Dr. Codrington, and maintained by him with much force of argument and many illustrative facts. He supposes that the whole archipelago was at first occupied by a dark-skinned and woolly-haired people, originally issuing from Asia, and speaking the primitive language from which all these Malayo-Polynesian dialects are derived. At a later day, a light-complexioned race, allied to the Siamese and other nations of south-eastern Asia, entered the islands by slow and gradual migration, took wives from among the Melanesians, adopted their language, and finally, by their inherent and superior vigor, displaced them entirely in many of the islands, and partially in others. This ingenious theory would explain why only one family of languages exists throughout the Melanesian region, if such were the case. It collapses, however, in the presence of some important facts which the learned author has not sufficiently considered. One of these facts is the ascertained existence in New Guinea of several languages radically distinct from those of the Malayan stock. Dr. Codrington himself remarks that three New Guinea vocabularies, furnished to him by Mr. McFarlane of the London mission society, contained no words that he knew; that is, no words of Malaisian origin. These were from south-eastern New Guinea, opposite the Australian coast. In the north-western part of the island, the German missionaries have studied the language of Mafor, near the Bay of Dorey, and have translated portions of the scriptures into it. A careful analysis of this language is given by Prof. F. Müller in his comprehensive work, 'Elements of linguistic science' (*Grundriss der Sprachwissenschaft*). Many words in it, as he points out, are derived from the Malay; but these are clearly modern additions, several of them being actually of Arabic origin. The grammar and the mass of the vocabulary are peculiar. Professor Müller's conclusion is, that the Malay-speaking Melanesians are a mixed race, derived from a mingling of yellow Malaisians with an aboriginal black race. This theory, in a certain way, accords with that of Dr. Codrington; but it differs from it in supposing that the Malayo-Polynesian language belonged originally, not to the black, but to the yellow race.

For this conclusion there is evidence which seems, on philological grounds, to be decisive. The vocabularies show that the Malaisian words which appear in the Melanesian dialects are usually corrupted, distorted, and abridged, having undergone the same fate which the Latin words experienced in the pronunciation of the Celts and Iberians of Gaul, when these barbarians adopted the speech of their Roman conquerors. Thus, the Malaisian *api* or *afi* ('fire') becomes in various Melanesian dialects *av, ev, eu, iei; ika* ('fish') dwindles to *ig, eg, ie; bua* or *fua* ('fruit') is transformed into *vua, hue, we, wi, oi; telinga* ('the ear') assumes the various forms of *teliga, tikga, dole, koroi, kuli, taia*. Similar contractions and corruptions pervade the entire vocabulary. It is clearly as impossible to hold that the fuller Malaisian words are derived from these briefer forms as it would be to suppose that the Latin *factum, pater, canis*, and *oculus* had their originals in the French *fait, père, chien*, and *œil*.

There can be little doubt that the view of Professor Müller is the correct one, and that the Melanesians of whom Dr. Codrington treats are a people of mixed origin, deriving their language mainly from the Malayan race, and their physical traits, in varying proportions, partly from that race, and partly from a negroid race, which is still found, nearly if not quite unmixed, in many parts of New Guinea. It is but just to say that the author puts forth his own theory merely as a suggestion, and does not allow it to influence in any manner his treatment of his subject. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the general method of his work, its lucid style, its precision and completeness. Several good maps afford useful aid to the student. The volume must be ranked among the best of the many valuable acquisitions which ethnological science owes to missionary zeal and scholarship.

H. Hale.