

TWENTY YEARS OF SECTION H,
ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science very early manifested an interest in anthropology. In 1849, at the second meeting of the Association, Professor S. S. Haldeman read a paper entitled 'Linguistic Ethnology.' Communications relating to anthropology were presented at almost every meeting until 1869, when increasing interest in the subject led to the formation of a subsection of 'Ethnology' under the general section of natural history. In 1873, the name of the subsection was changed to 'Anthropology.' At the Buffalo Meeting in 1876, anthropology was recognized as a permanent subsection of natural history.

When the Association was finally divided into sections, as now constituted, Section H fell to anthropology. The first program of Section H was presented at Montreal in 1882, Professor Alexander Winchell presiding in the absence of Sir Daniel Wilson.

By a curious coincidence, Section H of the British Association for the Advancement of Science is also devoted to anthropology, and its first session was held in Montreal in 1884, two years after the initial meeting of our own Section H in that city. The story of the early struggles of anthropology for recognition in the British Association, as told by Sir William Flower,* is strikingly similar to that of its early struggles for recognition here.

Eighty-six papers on anthropological subjects were read prior to the organization of Section H in 1882. From 1882 to 1901, inclusive, the communications numbered 589, or an average of more than 29 per meeting. These figures refer only to the annual meetings, no records having been kept of the winter programs. The

* *Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*, 1894, p. 762.

maximum number of papers, 45, were presented at the Boston meeting of 1898, and the minimum number, 11, were presented at Montreal in 1882.

Judging from the nature of the communications, the interest of anthropologists has been somewhat unevenly divided among four general branches of anthropology, viz., archeology, ethnology, somatology and general anthropology. Archeology was the favorite subject prior to 1882, as it has been since.

The following tabulation is offered as a means of making a numerical comparison of the work done in the four general divisions of the subject:

	1849-1881	1882-1901	Totals.
Archeology	48	261	309
Ethnology	22	211	233
Somatology	14	80	94
General Anthropology..	2	37	39
Totals	86	589	675

I have followed Brinton's* scheme of classification, grouping sociology, religion, mythology, linguistics and folk-lore under ethnology, and psychology under somatology.

In so far as the communications presented admit of geographical classification, it has been found that the members of the section have devoted themselves almost exclusively to the American continent. The reasons for such a choice are obvious. While science is supposed not to recognize political boundaries, problems that have a geographical basis go logically to resident workers, other things being equal. Legislation has also come to favor the home archeologist as opposed to the foreign. The study of anthropology naturally begins at home, a course always favored by questions of transportation.

* 'Proposed Classification and International Nomenclature of the Anthropologic Sciences,' *Proc. Amer. Assoc. for the Adv. of Science*, 1892.

Patriotism is a more or less constant factor in inspiring one with a love for everything pertaining to the home-land; archeology and ethnology, as well as form of government and commercial, artistic or literary supremacy. We cherish some relic of a vanished race all the more because it was found on the old homestead. Local, national, New World pride has evidently had much to do with our choice of subjects for special research. Add to all these considerations a vast and virgin continent awaiting the anthropologist, and there is little wonder he has given such a relatively small portion of his time to the Old World, or the islands of the sea.

Out of a total of 589 papers presented in the last twenty years only 32, or 5.4 per cent., were devoted solely to foreign lands, foreign being understood to mean all lands other than the American continent and immediately adjoining islands; while 39 papers, or 6.6 per cent., were comparative studies involving both American and other lands.

Of the vice-presidential addresses, four were on archeology, nine on ethnology, four on somatology and two on general anthropology. Eleven vice-presidents chose American subjects, eight chose comparative, and not one dealt with a purely foreign problem.

In order to determine the geographic distribution of subjects in Section H of the British Association, recourse was had to the 'Reports' covering the four years 1893-96. During that time, 136 papers (reports not included) were read, distributed geographically as follows:

Europe (including British Isles)	55, or 39.9 per cent.
Other lands	50, or 36.2 per cent.
Studies involving both Europe and other lands....	33, or 23.9 per cent.

Records of the anthropological section of the French Association for the Advance-

ment of Science during the same period, 1893-96, were analyzed with the following results:

Total number of papers read	116
Studies in Europe.....	86, or 74.2 per cent.
Studies in other lands....	21, or 18.1 per cent.
Studies involving both Europe and other lands....	9, or 7.7 per cent.

The German Anthropological Society may be considered as the equivalent of Section H in the British or American Association for the Advancement of Science. Applying the same geographical test to the work of the German Society of Anthropology as it appears in the *Berichte* for 1897-1900, inclusive, the results are as follows:

Total number of papers read. 88	
Studies in Europe.....	50, or 56.9 per cent.
Studies in other lands....	14, or 15.9 per cent.
Studies involving both Europe and other lands....	24, or 27.2 per cent.

To arrive at a juster comparison of the scope and trend of the work done in anthropology by the several associations, the same time unit should be used. This would call for the records of our sectional work from 1893 to 1896,* inclusive, instead of for the whole twenty years; and the records for these four years furnish the following data:

Total number of papers presented	136
Subjects pertaining to the Americas	105, or 77.3 per cent.
Subjects pertaining to other lands	7, or 5.1 per cent.
Subjects involving both the Americas and other lands	24, or 17.6 per cent.

The percentage of purely foreign studies is even lower for the short period of four years than for the long period of twenty years. On the other hand, there is a

* The German *Berichte* for 1897-1900 were selected because they were more accessible at the time of these investigations.

marked increase in the number of communications relating both to foreign lands and to the Americas.

The nature of the work under review is such as to render mathematical exactness impossible. I have endeavored to make the foregoing averages approximate the truth, and believe they can be relied upon to show that American anthropologists have been working in relatively greater isolation than have European anthropologists.

The cosmopolitan character of the programs of the several associations in question is found to be in direct ratio, not only to the area of the colonies and dependencies of the several countries, but also to the tonnage of their merchant marine engaged especially in the foreign trade. The anthropologist's horizon is constantly under limitations imposed by his government's colonial or commercial policy.

With colonies and protectorates beyond the confines of Europe aggregating over 11,000,000 square miles in extent, including India, and with a merchant marine engaged exclusively in the foreign trade, much larger than that of any other country (8,043,860 tons in 1899), open especially to them, the English anthropologists are brought into contact with foreign problems at so many points, it would be strange indeed did they not improve the opportunities thus afforded.

The colonies and dependencies of France cover an area (1901) of 3,740,000 square miles, with a population of 56,000,000. The area of German colonies and dependencies amounts to 1,027,120 square miles with a population of 14,687,000.

The United States became a 'world power' only three years ago. Enough time has not elapsed to show the influence of that step on the programs of Section H, but if we expand along with our opportuni-

ties, it is safe to say that an analysis of the work we shall do in the next twenty years will show different results from that of our record for the epoch just closed.

We may not be able to improve much on the quality or even the quantity, but, with an enlarged horizon, the work should become less and less local and fragmentary. I believe we are at the threshold of a new epoch in which the many interdependent and partially solved problems of the past shall be completed and thereby make possible vast progress in correlative and synthetic anthropology.

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COLLEGE WORK FOR AGRICULTURISTS.

AUTHENTIC information regarding the progress made in the State of New York in the promotion of scientific methods in agriculture and the part taken by science and scientific men in their advancement has often been sought, and yet we rarely find a clear statement of the extensive work which has been done and is still being carried on in aid of scientific and intensive agriculture. The extent of this work is enormous and its value to the state is vastly more than proportionally valuable. It is mainly performed at the experiment station, and in the university extension work, of the College of Agriculture of the 'Land Grant College' of the state, at Ithaca, and at the experiment station at Geneva. A recent statement by the president of Cornell University is the first which has given us a concise, yet definite and satisfying, account of this work. We abstract the principal parts of this statement:

"By the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862, Congress enacted that there should be granted to the several states certain amounts of public land, from the sale of which there should be established a per-