

SCIENCE

Vol. LXVII

JANUARY 6, 1923

No. 1723

STATURE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD¹

CONTENTS

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Stature throughout the World:</i> PROFESSOR R. BENNETT BEAN	1
<i>The Functions of Section M—Engineering:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES RUSS RICHARDS	5
<i>Eugene Allen Smith:</i> DR. WALTER B. JONES	7
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Free Public Lectures on Medical Subjects; Officers of the American Chemical Society; Officers of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	10
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	12
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	14
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>The Period of Gestation in the Monkey:</i> DR. CARL G. HARTMAN. <i>The Floods of 1927 in the Mississippi River Basin:</i> A. J. HENRY. <i>Divisions of the Decorah Formation:</i> G. MARSHALL KAY. <i>A Day-light Meteor:</i> DR. ALBERT B. REAGAN. <i>Interference?</i> A. GAEL SIMSON	15
<i>Quotations:</i>	
<i>Dr. F. A. Bather</i>	17
<i>Amendments to the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature:</i> DR. C. W. STILES	17
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>The Chromosomes of Moina Macrocopa:</i> DR. EZRA ALLEN. <i>Genetic Evidence that the Cladocera Male is Diploid:</i> DR. ARTHUR M. BANTA and THELMA R. WOOD. <i>Pentathionic Acid, the Fungicidal Factor of Sulphur:</i> DR. H. C. YOUNG and ROBERT WILLIAMS	18
<i>Science News</i>	x

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter July 13, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

A GENERAL survey of stature has been started in connection with a study of old Americans in Virginia and this report is a condensed summary of the preliminary work. Only males are considered.

Stature is a complex dependent upon the growth of various parts of the body, chiefly bone and cartilage. This growth is partly regulated by the endocrines of the hypophysis and thyroid, and it is influenced by a great number of factors, such as food, water, habit and habitat. It is impossible to measure each factor that enters into the life history of each individual, therefore mass statistics are used, and only general results and conclusions may be given.

The records have been obtained from various sources, and many of them are of men below the age of 25 years who therefore had not finished their growth. In general there is no distinction as to age; all ages are included, from near adult to the old, although the majority are between the ages of 20 and 30 years. The technique of measuring is not always the same in gathering the records, therefore they may not all be fairly comparable. The method of grouping them by the median of group means or averages should prevent any gross errors as the result of technique or the selection of individuals.

Group medians are used throughout because this affords the fairest average stature. There are 326 groups from Europe and the median of the group averages is 169.4 centimeters. The extremes are one group of "Indigent French" with a stature of 156.0 centimeters, and one group of "Scotch Farmers" with a stature of 181.2 centimeters. There are two distinct modes, one at 166.0 centimeters and the other at 170.0 centimeters. This is clearly indicated by the median for southern Europe at 165.5 centimeters, and that for northern Europe at 170.6 centimeters, with middle Europe at 166.6 centimeters.

The median of 135 groups in Asia is 161.1 centimeters, with extremes of one group of Negritos from southern India at 148.0 centimeters, and one group of Ainos with a stature of 172.0 centimeters. Persians and Turks are not included in Asia but are put

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section H—Anthropology, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Nashville, December, 1927.



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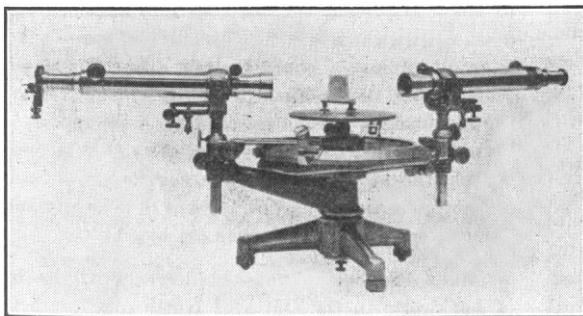
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