

SCIENCE

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INSTITUTES OF ANTHROPOLOGY¹

THE anthropological problems of the present day are so numerous and so pressing that we can afford to select those of the greatest utility. Indeed, the three university institutes of anthropology I have suggested would have to specialize and then work hard to keep abreast of the problems which will crowd upon them. One might take the European races, another Asia and the Pacific, and a third Africa. America in anthropology can well look after itself. In each case we need something on the scale of the Paris Ecole d'Anthropologie, with its seventeen professors and teachers, with its museums and journals. But we want something else—a new conception of the range of problems to be dealt with and a new technique. From such schools would pass out men with academic training fit to become officials, diplomatic agents, teachers, missionaries, and traders in Europe, in Asia or in Africa, men with intelligent appreciation of and sympathy with the races among whom they proposed to work.

But this extra-state work, important as it is, is hardly comparable in magnitude with the intra-state work which lies ready to hand for the anthropological laboratory that has the will, the staff and the equipment to take it up efficiently. In the present condition of affairs it is only too likely that much of this work, being psychometric, will fall into the hands of the psychologist, whereas it is essentially the fitting work of the anthropologist, who should come to the task, if fitly trained, with a knowledge of comparative material and of the past history, mental and physical, of mankind, on which his present faculties so largely depend. The danger has

¹ Concluding part of the address of the president of the Anthropological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Cardiff, 1920.