

SCIENCE

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THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF THE FAR EAST¹

THE white man is quite liable to forget that the Far East is a very great part of the world; that it is, in fact, a more populous and greater world than his, and one which has perhaps quite as many and important problems of its own. But it is difficult to realize these things unless the student actually visits the Far East, and by Far East I mean the entire eastern half or rather two thirds of the Asiatic continent with the adjacent oceans. Once you enter these territories you are in a vast human beehive; you see on all sides of you peoples of interest; peoples who must have their history, their antiquity; peoples who must have many problems the solution of which is connected with and would be of value to the rest of the world. When, as an anthropologist, you have been in these regions for a length of time, you begin to see a light, very dim at first, which shows you these problems, so far as our own field is concerned, are divisible into two large classes: into the more *comprehensive* ones, which involve very large groups of humanity and the large questions, and into the more *particular problems*, which are proper to the different individual ethnic groups that occupy those territories.

I shall speak first of all of some of the more individual problems, but it may as well be stated at once that with these or the larger problems I shall not be able to do more than to present mere outlines for your contemplation; more thorough definitions and the answers to the problems are matters for the future.

It will be handiest to take up the particular questions geographically, and begin with the north or rather the northeast. And here we

¹ Lecture delivered before the 548th meeting of the Anthropological Society of Washington, October 19, 1920.