

Laws as an individual property separate from tribal property. Generally speaking, the right does not exist in Europe, as all rights are centred in the owner of the soil. It is probable that the personal right of the first discoverer of honey and similar trees, a right defined by Sir H. S. Maine as dependent on discovery, is to be regarded as the origin of an individual right of property rather than any right in land, which is of no value in a primitive community. Even cultivable land belonged to the community, and was distributed by lot yearly, of which there are modern examples.

7. *Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the Habits and Customs and Physical Characteristics of the Nomad Tribes of Asia Minor, and to excavate on sites of ancient occupation.*—See Reports, p. 176.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.

*The Section did not meet.*

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

The following Reports and Papers were read:—

1. *Report of the Committee for editing a new Edition of 'Anthropological Notes and Queries.'*—See Reports, p. 186.

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2. *Report of the Committee for calculating the Anthropological Measurements taken at Bath.*—See Reports, p. 423.

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3. *Exhibition of a new Anthropometric Instrument, specially designed for the use of Travellers.* By Dr. J. G. GARSON.

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4. *An Instrument for measuring Reaction Time.*  
By FRANCIS GALTON, F.R.S.

The principle of the instrument exhibited, and the scale of its graduations, were described a few months since ('Journ. Anthropol. Inst.,' xix. 1, p. 28), but the details of its construction have been greatly improved. It measures in a very simple manner, the interval that elapses between (1) making a Signal either by Sight or by Sound, and (2) the Response given to it by the person who is experimented on. It consists of a half-second's pendulum held by a detent at an inclination of 18° to the vertical; when the detent is depressed, the pendulum begins to swing. The depression of the detent may be effected silently: then levers, an arrangement connected with it, cause a disc of paper to disappear noiselessly, which gives a Sight Signal. Or else a hammer is allowed to strike the detent aside, which gives a Sound Signal. The Response is made by pressing a key, that causes an elastic thread to be suddenly nipped and held fast. This thread is attached above and below to the rod of the pendulum, and parallel to it. Owing to the very small inertia of the thread it can be suddenly checked while in full swing; and owing to its elasticity the sudden check communicates no jar to the pendulum. The position of the nipped thread indicates that of the pendulum at the moment when

it was nipped. It is read on a properly graduated scale that is disposed as a chord to the arc of oscillation. The graduation at the point where the thread is nipped, shows the number of hundredths of a second that had elapsed between the Signal and the Response. The instrument was made for the author by Mr. Groves, 89 Bolsover Street, London, W.

5. *The Smithsonian Institution in the United States of America, and its work relating to Anthropology.* By Dr. THOMAS WILSON.

6. *The Study of Ethnology in India.* By H. H. RISLEY.

The paper commenced by explaining the special conditions, social and administrative, which make India a readily accessible and peculiarly instructive field for ethnological and, more especially, for anthropological researches. It went on to describe the measures adopted during the last four years under the sanction of the Government of Bengal for a general ethnographic survey of the population (70,000,000) of that province, and for a special anthropometric inquiry into the physical characteristics of the people of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, Oudh, and the Panjáb. In the course of the anthropometric survey measurements were taken, on the system prescribed by Dr. Paul Topinard, of Paris, and approved by Professor Flower, President of the British Association, of 6,000 persons, representing eighty-nine different tribes and castes.

Some of the main conclusions which these inquiries indicate were then stated. It was shown that the population of Northern India comprised three distinct types, viz. :—

- I. A leptorhine dolicho-cephalic type of tall stature, fair complexion, and high facial angle, apparently corresponding in all points except hair and complexion with the Aryan type as defined by Herr Karl Penka of Vienna.
- II. A platyrhine dolicho-cephalic type of low stature, black or very dark complexion, and low facial angle. The wider racial affinities of this type are uncertain, and it is tentatively and conjecturally described as Australioid.
- III. A mesorhine, platyopic, brachycephalic type of low stature, yellowish complexion, and low facial angle, described, in virtue of its low nasal index, as Mongoloid.

The types thus worked out by anthropometric methods are shown to correspond with certain ethnographic groupings independently ascertained. Thus the leptorhine group have exogamous subdivisions of the eponymous type; the platyrhine group have their exogamy on the totem; while the brachycephalic group make use of a system of personal nicknames for this purpose. In the Aryan and Australioid types the social status of each caste or tribe is found to vary inversely as its nasal index; tribes with the highest index having the lowest social rank, and *vice versa*. In the brachycephalic group social status appears to vary with the cephalic index.

An attempt was made to deduce from these data a theory of the probable origin of caste, and also to account for the custom of exogamy by the operation of the law of natural selection.

The concluding part of the paper discussed the practical bearing of ethnology upon certain administrative and social questions in India, such as famine relief; the management of the Excise revenue; the relations of landlord and tenant; the prohibition of widow marriage; the continual extension and perversion of the disastrous custom of infant marriage; and, lastly, upon the remarkable movement known as the National Congress, the main feature of which was the demand by natives who have received an English education for the extension of representative institutions to India.