

PHOTOGRAPH of HUMAN FIGURE *found in SARAWAK.*

Exhibited by Lady BROOKE (H.H. the Ranee of Sarawak).

MR. F. GALTON said that the photograph is of a rounded sandstone rock about 12 feet high, on which the prone and sprawling figure of a man is carved in high relief, and of the size of life. The figure is for the most part true to nature and in correct proportion. The head rests almost on the top of the rock, and is consequently so much foreshortened in the photograph that little is to be made out, even in respect to the head-dress. The rock lies in the jungle, at the side of a small stream, close to its junction with the main river near to Sarawak. The sculpture was discovered a few months since by a man who was clearing a patch of jungle, but there is reason to believe that some of the natives were previously aware of its existence, and held it in superstitious dread. The Rajah, Sir Ch. Brooke, was much impressed by its revolting appearance. It is difficult to offer a reasonable guess as to the object of so strange a piece of workmanship, or of the nationality of the man who took the considerable pains necessary to carve it. Chinese and other buried coins have been found close by, but the figure does not look like the work of Chinese, Hindoos, Malays, or Dyaks. It can hardly have been sculptured in recent years, and in former times the coast was avoided by the Dutch and other European navigators. The figure of a man lying face downward on the shoulder of the rock, with his hands and legs disposed as if he were climbing it for treacherous purposes, suggests the idea that a man was killed on the rock in that very act, and that the bloody stains left on the stone by his body and limbs suggested the idea of cutting out his figure in high relief, to serve as a memorial of the event and as a kind of human scarecrow. In such a case it would follow that wherever the stains were sufficiently well-marked to guide the sculptor the carving would be an exact though rude representation of a human body; but where they were imperfect or absent, the sculptor would be left to his own resources, and we should expect him to fall into errors of proportion. This is just what we find here.

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IMPRINTS of the HAND, by DR. FORGEOT, of the LABORATOIRE  
D'ANTHROPOLOGIE CRIMINALE, LYON.

Exhibited by FRANCIS GALTON, Esq., F.R.S.

A FEW weeks ago Prof. Lacassaigne, of Lyons, was so good as to show me the extremely interesting laboratory of criminal anthropology that he had called into existence in connection with the

medical school at that place. The various workers at his laboratory publish pamphlets from time to time, of which not a few treat upon subjects that are of interest to our own Institute. I lay some of these on the table. Among them is a pamphlet by Dr. Forgeot describing a new process of rendering visible, the previously invisible details of such faint finger-prints as thieves may have left on anything they may have handled. The object is to supply evidence for subsequent identification. It is well known that the pressure of the hand on the polished surface of glass or metal leaves a latent image very difficult to destroy, which may be developed by suitable applications, but few probably have suspected that this may be the case, to a considerable degree, with ordinary paper. Dr. Forgeot has shown that if a slightly unctuous hand, such for example as a hand that has just been passed through the hair, be pressed on clean paper, and if common ink be lightly brushed over it, the ink will refuse to lie thickly on the greasy parts of the paper, and the result will be the production of a very good picture of all the minute markings of the fingers. I will show the process itself, and submit to the meeting some prints that Dr. Forgeot has sent me. He has even used these as negatives, and printed good photographs from them. He also has sent a photographic print made from a piece of glass which had been exposed to the vapour of hydrofluoric acid, after having been touched by a greasy hand.

I may say that I know of at least one recent case in which some such process as this could have been used with effect. A burglary was committed in a style that left no doubt in the minds of the detectives that it had been done by well practised hands. A perfectly distinct finger-print was left on one of the panes of a window, but the detectives were not acquainted with the fact that if the imprint on that pane of glass had been, for the moment, protected from injury, and afterwards copied at leisure, an evidence of the strongest character would be afforded as to whether any suspected person was or was not the person who made that imprint.

Dr. Forgeot's pamphlet contains the description of many processes besides those I have especially mentioned.

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*On the LIMITS of SAVAGE RELIGION.*

By EDWARD B. TYLOR.

IN defining the religious systems of the lower races, so as to place them correctly in the history of culture, careful examination is necessary to separate the genuine developments of native theology from the effects of intercourse with civilized foreigners. That foreign travellers and missionaries sometimes