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## THE CHARACTER OF RACES

# THE <br> CHARACTER OF RACES 

## AS INFLUENCED BY PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL SELECTION AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

## BY

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## TO

THE ONE TO WHOM I OWE MOST MY MOTHER

## PREFACE

Some nine years ago, in a book called Civilization and Climate, I set forth the thesis that the general distribution of civilization and progress depends largely upon climate. I also attempted to show that the influence of climate is strongly modified by migrations of peoples and cultures, by racial mixture, by inventions and discoveries such as iron tools and agriculture, and by ideas such as religion. After reasonable allowance had been made for all these factors, I still felt that certain highly significant features of the distribution of human progress remained unexplained. Why for example did such meteoric intellectual brilliancy occur in Greece? Why are such wonderful Hindu ruins located in Cambodia in Indo-China? Why has a high type of culture been able to persist for a thousand years in stormy Iceland? And why do we see in China the curious anomaly of a progressive South and a conservative North? After years of search I believe that at least a partial explanation is found in natural selection arising most frequently under the stress of over-population and migration. The principle involved is so simple and obvious that it seems almost incredible that it has been so largely ignored by students of geography, history, and sociology.

A study of famines in China was the step which disclosed the importance of this principle. Having long been puzzled over the fact that north China does not show the degree of progress that one would expect on the basis of either its climate, its institutions, or its past achievements, I was stimulated to further investigation by an article by Doctor Carl W. Bishop in The Geographical Review (vol. VII, 1922). Doctor Bishop points out most clearly the nature of the contrast between the "staid and conservative" North of China and the "alert and progressive" although semi-tropical South. It occurred to me that famines might have something to do with this. Accordingly, I wrote to an old friend, Reverend Robert E. Chandler, a missionary at

Tientsin, China, and asked his opinion as to the effect of famines in selecting certain physical or mental types for destruction, preservation, or migration. He not only sent his own answer, but procured a series of most interesting letters from other missionaries, including Doctor Arthur H. Smith, author of Chinese Characteristics and Village Life in China; Doctor F. F. Tucker, head of the American Hospital at Tehchow; Professor Guy W. Sarvis, of Nanking University; Reverend George D. Wilder, of Peking; and Reverend Henry Lieper, of Tientsin. All of these men have had personal experience of famines and of relief work. Later I visited China and interviewed still other missionaries, among whom I must mention Doctor William E. Souter, of the China International Famine Relief Commission; Reverend W. E. Macklin, of Nanking; Reverend R. A. Torrey, of Tsinan, who has lived among the famine-stricken people of Shantung and has thought deeply on the significance of what he has seen; Doctor J. H. Ingraham, of Peking; and Mr. E. W. Edwards, of the Peking Y. M. C. A., secretary of the China International Famine Relief Commission. All of these men, as well as others too numerous to mention, were extremely kind in giving me a wealth of information which seems to show that the process of natural selection through over-population, famine, and migration is taking place in China to-day at a rapid rate. Historical records prove that it has taken place with equal or greater rapidity during a large part of the last two thousand years or more. The case is so clear that the chapters on China form perhaps the most important section of this book.

Iceland furnishes another equally clear-cut case. The conditions there, however, are quite different from those of China, for in that cool northern island the main selection of the inhabitants took place once for all; the noteworthy fact is the extraordinary persistence of a high inheritance when once it had been segregated. The outward contrast between China and Iceland is so pronounced, while the similarity of the principles involved is so great, that in spite of the scanty population it has seemed worth while to treat Iceland almost as fully as China. The rest of the
book is devoted to an attempt to apply the biological principle of natural selection to man's early history and distribution, and then more fully to specific historical instances. The number of such instances is so large and their intrinsic interest so great that it has been no easy matter to choose among them.

Three peculiarities of this book perhaps need explanation. First, natural selection is constantly emphasized, while other equally important factors are made subordinate, although great care is taken to mention them; second, only a few of the hundreds of fine examples afforded by history are here treated; and third, much space is devoted to a somewhat speculative account of man's early evolution and migrations.

The reason for all three peculiarities is the same: One cannot do everything in a single book. This book is the logical companion of Civilization and Climate. Each illustrates a great principle which has generally been overlooked in the study of history. Neither pretends to be complete, for where a new subject is first presented the mere limitations of space, as well as the dictates of psychology, make it necessary to concentrate upon a single theme. For a complete, well-rounded view of history one must combine these two books with many others which discuss such matters as geographic location and natural resources; human inventions, discoveries, and ideas; the influence of men of genius; the economic forces that bind mankind so closely; the growth and pressure of population; and the interplay of war, religion, intrigue, and human ambition. Some day the progress of science will give us a scientific history in which all these factors, as well as the factors of climate and natural selection, are co-ordinated and given due weight. As a help toward such a sketch, it has seemed to me wise to show how the principles of climatic change and natural selection probably apply to the earliest human development, as well as to outstanding examples from later periods. It has also seemed wise to concentrate on natural selection through physical causes, and to devote to other factors only enough space to convince the reader that I appreciate their great importance in modifying human character.

In this book, as in every other that I have written, I owe much to a group of kind friends, to all of whom $I$ here tender most hearty thanks. The manuscript has been read and criticised in whole or in part by my colleagues Professors Irving Fisher, Richard S. Lull, and George G. McCurdy; by Professor Griffith Taylor, of Australia; and also by my wife and by Mr. R. V. Coleman, of the Yale University Press. Had it not been for Mr. Coleman's insistence I doubt whether this book would have been written. Five years ago he persuaded me to write on a topic which at first was tentatively expressed as The Influence of Climate upon Mankind and later as The Effect of Physical Environment upon the Origin and Modification of Racial Character. Professor Frederick W. Williams, of Yale University, and Professor Stephen S. Visher, of Indiana University, have not only read the manuscript but have devoted much time to providing material which has been the basis of long sections of the book.

I also wish gratefully to acknowledge my indebtedness to the following publishers and authors for permission to quote from their books: to Stanislaus Novakovsky, for use of a passage from his unpublished manuscript on "Hysteria Artica"; to E. P. Dutton \& Company and E. H. Parker, for the use of passages from "China, Her History, Diplomacy, and Commerce: From the Earliest Times to the Present Day"; to Harper \& Brothers and Sir Philip Gibbs, for the use of passages from "Now It Can Be Told" and "Adventures in Journalism";. to Hurst \& Blackett, Ltd., and Havelock Ellis for the use of a passage from "A Study of British Genius"; to Oxford University Press for the use of passages from "Studies in History and Jurisprudence," by James Bryce; to Roland B. Dixon, for the use of passages from "The Racial History of Man"; to William McDougall for the use of passages from "Is America Safe for Democracy?" to Macmillan \& Co., Ltd., of London, and The Macmillan Company of New York, for the use of passages from "Homer and History," by Walter Leaf; to Yale University Press for the use of a passage from the preface; by Charles M. Andrews, to "The Colonizing Activities of the English Puritans"; to Columbia Studies and Edwin
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E. H.

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averaging not far from two among the highly skilled. In each group of occupations I have added the word "young" to the upper line because the men in that particular occupation average younger than the others, and therefore their families are not so near completion as are those of older men, such as foremen, bankers, officials, and the other higher categories. It seems safe to say that at least six children, and perhaps more, are born to the average mine operative, and that not less than five of these live well beyond infancy. On the other hand, it is very doubtful whether the chemists, assayers, and metallurgists in our table will have an average of as many as three children, so that not much over two and a half will survive far into childhood. After infancy is past the chemists' children may have nearly as high a death-rate as the children of the miners. Snow, in a paper on The Intensity of Natural Selection in Man, has confirmed Pearson's conclusion that if the death-rate is high in the first year of life, as it is among the children of mine operatives, it is relatively low in succeeding years. On the contrary, a low death-rate in infancy means that the later death-rate is higher than it would have been under the same conditions of environment if the weaker infants had perished.

The case of the chemists appears still worse when we remember that even though the proportion of married men (9r per cent) among a picked body of leading scientists has been found by Cattell to be as large as in the population as a whole, the proportion among Harvard graduates over fifty years of age is only 72 per cent. Moreover, in both groups the number of child-' less marriages is large because of the relatively advanced age of the wives. For example, among leading men of science whose families were presumably complete, 22 per cent of those who were married were childless. Again among these scientific men the average completed family amounts to only 2.23 children. As the death-rate among the children up to the usual age of marriage is about 120 per thousand, the average number of children reaching that age is r.96. This, however, takes no account of the scientists who are not married. If they are included,
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