

ART. VIII.—*On the proposed Ethnographical Survey.* BY
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Read at Carlisle, August 8th, 1895.

AT the last meeting of the Council of this Society the proposed Ethnographical Survey was under consideration, and being heartily approved, a representative committee was appointed to carry out the work. As a preliminary step it was thought desirable that the subject should be brought before the first general meeting of the members so that they might be fully informed of the objects of the proposed enquiry and of the manner in which it is intended to carry it out. In some parts of the United Kingdom much progress has already been made, but in Cumberland and Westmorland hardly anything has as yet been done.

The credit of the proposal belongs to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. At the Edinburgh meeting of this Society, held in August, 1892, a paper was read by Mr. Brabrook, F.S.A., on the "Organisation of Local Anthropological Research," and as a result of that meeting a committee was formed which is now organising the work in various parts of the country. The committee consists of members of the Association, and of others who are not members but who act with the committee and have been appointed to do so, as delegates of such societies as the Folk Lore Society, the Society of Antiquaries, the Anthropological Institute, the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Statistical Society, the Cambrian Archæological Association, &c.

The committee propose to record for certain typical villages, parishes, or places, and their vicinity:—

1. Physical types of the inhabitants.

2. Current

2. Current traditions and beliefs.
3. Peculiarities of dialect.
4. Monuments and other remains of ancient culture.
5. Historical evidence as to continuity of race.

It is obvious that the first step in such an investigation is to form a list of such places as appear especially to deserve ethnographic study: the places which appear to the committee as most suitable for entry on the list are such as contain not less than 100 adults the large majority of whose forefathers have lived there so far back as can be traced and of whom the necessary physical measurements can be obtained. The learned president of this Society, Chancellor Ferguson, F.S.A., has taken great interest in this preliminary part of the work, and with his help and that of some other members, a list of places in Cumberland and Westmorland has been scheduled by the central committee. This list is not by any means complete, but the mere mention of the names of places in Cumberland and Westmorland which have been suggested by Chancellor Ferguson, Canon Matthews, Mr. William Wilson, Mr. Jared Turnbull, the Rev. J. Wharton, and myself, will show that no light task is before the committee and several months must elapse before it is completed. In Cumberland the list includes Keswick, Penrith, Cockermouth, Hesketh New Market, Aspatria, Dalston, Great Orton, Allonby, Bromfield, Wasdale, Gosforth, Eskdale, Brampton, Lanercost, Ivegill, Caldbeck, and Maughanby. In Westmorland the places already scheduled are Appleby, Ravenstonedale, Asby, Orton, Swaledale, Troutbeck, Kentmere, Ambleside, and Lakeland generally. In a report presented to section H. of the British Association in 1893 some observations occur relating to some of the above named places, and a more complete and comprehensive study of them will be of great value.

The Society of Antiquaries has commenced, and in several
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several counties has completed, an Archæological Survey in which the monuments of antiquity are recorded on a uniform system; the Folk Lore Society has commenced, in several counties, the systematic collection of records of customs, traditions, and beliefs; and the late Anthropometric Committee of the British Association made numerous observations on the physical characters of the inhabitants in some parts of the United Kingdom, but all this work must remain incomplete and its teaching unavailable as long as the results of it are not brought together. If these several branches of research are pursued simultaneously under similar conditions, and the results brought into apposition, we may find some instructive correlations, or if we do not find them, it will be instructive to find that they do not exist. The purpose of the enquiry is wholly one of research. It is not the establishment of any preconceived views or the support of any existing theories, but a thorough investigation into the natural history of man as differentiated by such racial characters of all kinds as survive in various parts of the country. It is evident that in an undertaking of this kind much of the evidence upon which we can rely is rapidly slipping from our grasp. The various forces which impel the country folk towards our great towns and the rapid means of transit from place to place, of which even the poorest are able to avail themselves, are rapidly effacing local peculiarities, and the races of which our population are composed are yearly getting more mixed. The work therefore should be pushed forward. In a few years more it will be impossible. The opportunity will have passed. Notwithstanding the rapid changes which have taken place in all parts of the country during the last fifty years, a brief consideration of the places in Cumberland and Westmorland which have been selected by the central committee for investigation shows that much valuable material yet remains; and in order that there may be

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no overlapping of work it is desirable that those members who desire to assist in the survey should place themselves in communication with the sub-committee. Forms of schedules relating to each head of the enquiry have been prepared and may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Ethnographical Survey Committee, Burlington House, London, W. It is desirable that the schedule relating to the physical types of the inhabitants should be supplemented by photographic portraits of the person measured, as facial characteristics are so readily and conveniently recorded in this way. There are now so many amateurs in the art of photography that it is hoped the desired materials may be abundantly supplied. At least twelve more or less beardless male adults and twelve female adults should be photographed in each district. It is recommended that the adults examined should be between the ages of 20 and 50, or still better between 25 and 45 years. They should not be picked out for their size or beauty, but taken indiscriminately with a view of getting a truly representative series of observation. In several counties the project of a photographic survey has been taken up by a combination of the local archæological and photographic societies. The idea was started in Birmingham. In Gloucestershire they are now arranging to have not merely the archæological, architectural, and natural peculiarities and beauties of the county photographed, but also typical natives in the manner required by the Ethnographic Survey.

Full directions are given in the schedules as to each section of the work and the various points which require attention and elucidation. When completed the different sections of each schedule will be collated by a special expert, and among the names of those who have agreed to do this part of the work appear those of Mr. Francis Galton, F.R.S., Professor Rhys, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, and Professor of Celtic in that University,
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Mr. Brabrook, F.R.S., Mr. George Payne, F.S.A., and Professor Skeat. There can be no doubt that in the hands of such competent authorities, such local researches as may be undertaken will be fully digested. Let us hope that the work in Cumberland and Westmorland, for which this Society has made itself responsible, will reach a high standard of excellence and bear favourable comparison with that done in other parts of the United Kingdom.
