

## Recent Advances in Anthropology, Ethnology and Ethnography in India.

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IN his otherwise well-informed account of the "Recent Advances in Anthropology, Ethnology and Ethnography in India" published in the January issue of the *Current Science*, it is regretted that Rao Bahadur L. K. Ananthakrishna Iyer should have made no reference to the works of several important investigators. I have no doubt that this omission was unintentional but if such accounts are to be considered as authoritative it is essential that due mention be made of all important contributions. I give below a summary of some of the anthropological works that have not been included in the above account.

Lt.-Col. Alberto C. Germano da Silva Correia has been carrying on investigations in the Ecole de Medicine de Nova Goa, on the somatic characters of the inhabitants of Portuguese India and has published several memoirs, such as (1) *Les Ranes de Satary* (1928), (2) *Les Lusos-Descendants de l'Inde Portugaise* (1928), and (3) *Les enfants et des adolescents luso-descendants de l'Inde Portugaise* (1931). Dr. da Silva Correia's work has been regarded by European anthropologists as of very great importance and he has been the recipient of many honours in recognition of the valuable researches carried on by him in this country. He has further been instrumental in training several students, one of whom Dr. Voicunte Camotin has published an important anthropometric study of the Saraswat Brahmins, viz., *Os Bramanes Sarasvatas de Goa*, 1929.

Mr. K. P. Chattopadhyaya, Education Officer of the Calcutta Corporation, has published two papers of great merit on Social Anthropology, namely, "The Social Organisation of the Satakarris and Sungas" (1929) and "Contact of Peoples as Affecting Marriage Rules" (1931). In the latter paper Mr. Chattopadhyaya has been able to offer a more comprehensive theory of Social Organization than was advocated by Rivers in the light of the

recent discoveries of the Pentecost and Ambrym marriage rules.

Dr. Provash Ch. Bose, of the Department of Racial Biology recently opened in the Bose Institute of Calcutta, has within the last few years published a number of papers on physical anthropology and has received commendation from European scientists. At present he is engaged in carrying on an anthropometric survey of the aboriginal tribes of Chotanagpur and a preliminary account of it was recently published in the *Transactions of the Bose Institute*.

Mr. B. K. Chatterjee of the Anthropological Laboratory of the Zoological Survey of India has carried out an elaborate study of the somatic affinities of the Behari Brahmins; this is soon appearing as No. 2 *Anthropological Bulletin* of the Zoological Survey of India.

Dr. Irawati Karve, a pupil of Dr. Ghuriye, has recently returned after taking the Doctorate degree in Anthropology from the Berlin University where she worked under Prof. Eugen Fischer. The results of her investigations on the eye colour of the Chitpavan Brahmins published in the *Zeitschrift für Morphologie und Anthropologie* (Band XXIX, 1931) has greatly added to our knowledge of the significant distribution of this trait among the Konkanaasth Brahmins of Western India.

Lastly, Mr. P. O. Bodding's work on the Santali language and folklore and Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis' statistical study of Indian anthropometric data require mention. The former has devoted his entire life to this work and the Norwegian Institute of Human Culture has recently published a sumptuous volume from his pen. A great portion of Prof. Mahalanobis' statistical analysis of the anthropometric data taken by the late Dr. N. Annandale has been published in the *Records of the Indian Museum* and the rest is expected to be completed soon.

## Research Notes.

## Phase Boundary Potentials.

It has frequently been suggested that surface reactions and surface equilibria are to a large extent controlled by the potential differences (P.D.) which exist at the phase boundaries. In Monograph No. 83 of *Actualities Scientifiques et Industrielles* (Hermann et cie Paris, 1934), E. K. Rideal has critically surveyed the present state of our knowledge on the subject of phase boundary potentials. The earliest type of phase boundary potential known is that recognised by Volta in 1808 at metal to metal interfaces. This Volta P. D. ( $\bar{v}$ ) is modified by the presence of a film on either metal such that if  $\Delta v$  be the potential across

the film, the new volta potential  $\bar{v}_1$  will be  $\bar{v}_1 = \bar{v} + \Delta v$ . E. K. Rideal and his colleagues have developed a technique to measure with precision the P. D. between two metals suspended in a gas after ionising the gap between the two surfaces by means of short range  $\alpha$ -particles from polonium. With this apparatus they have been able to study the effect of surface films on the volta potential and thereby obtain interesting data on the adsorption isotherm of a polarisable vapour such as ethyl alcohol on gold, and on the rates of evaporation of unimolecular films from metallic surfaces both pure and contaminated. The results indicate that the effect of poisons on the