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PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY.*

PHYSICAL anthropology is that branch of the broader field of anthropology which treats of physical man. It has nothing to do with man as a social being; it is not

* A lecture delivered at the Field Columbian Museum, March 20, 1897.

concerned with the products of his hands or of his brain; it deals neither with technology, language, government, law, sociology, folk-lore nor religion; it treats of man as an animal.

We may for the sake of convenience consider four views of the subject. These are: (a) the scope of physical anthropology; (b) the problems of physical anthropology; (c) physical anthropology in its relation to museum exhibition; and (d) the importance or value of physical anthropology.

(a) *The Scope of Physical Anthropology.*

Physical anthropology assumes that man is an animal; is a member of the brute world, and it follows that man is to be studied as other animals are studied. It is then a part of zoology, which has for its study the entire animal world; and in this world man demands the most attention and the closest scrutiny, for he is both the most important and the most widely distributed of all animals. Applying the methods of zoological investigation to man, physical anthropology asks of his ancestry, of the time of his appearance on earth, of his kinds or varieties or species, of the comparative fertility of races, of the fertility of hybrids, of the laws of heredity and descent, and of the nature and influence of food, climate and environment upon man, and finally of man's relation to other animals.

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