

direction north, south, east, or west from this central point the proportion of blondes decreases, and that of brunettes increases.

Many theories have been advanced to account for these anomalies. The common explanation is that they are due to race. If so, how is it that we have no aboriginal blondes between the tropics, and no aboriginal blacks north of  $35^{\circ}$  N. L. It has been thought that civilization produces fairness; but this view is refuted by many facts, the civilized Peruvian Indians, for instance, being darker than their savage congeners on the Amazons. It has been asserted that the upper classes are fairer than the lower; but, though this is the case in Europe and India, the opposite state of things existed in the Sandwich Islands, and still exists in some parts of Africa. A mountain climate has been supposed to produce a light complexion, but the highlanders of Scotland and Switzerland are darker than the natives of the plains of the same countries. Indeed, a pretty good case could be made out for the theory that low, flat countries produce fair complexions. South America, for example, which has no aboriginal negroes, is much less raised above the level of the sea than Africa. But neither is this theory consonant with all the facts.

The explanation has been sought in differences of diet, and it has been conjectured that a superabundance of carbon in the food might lead to the deposit of some of it in the skin. Races then, that live largely upon fat or oily food ought, on this hypothesis, to be darker than others in the same latitude. But there are no facts to show that the Welsh or the Irish live more on carbonaceous food than the English or the Dutch, and yet there is a considerable difference in complexion. Dr. Livingstone thought that a moist climate produces dark skins; D'Orbigny considers it the cause of fairness. Poesche, in his work on the Aryans, seems to consider fairness to be due to the absence from the soil of the elements from which the pigment that gives the yellow, brown, or black shade to the skin is formed.

Darwin, Professor Huxley, M. de Quatrefages and others think it probable that racial distinctions owe their origin to the selective operation of the prevailing diseases of particular climates. Assuming, what is amply supported by facts, that individuals slightly diverging in different directions from the type are constantly being produced, it is obvious that if a dark or a light complexion be correlated with power to resist a particular disease or group of diseases, a white race may, by natural selection, be gradually developed from a coloured one,