

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE GROWTH OF TORONTO CHILDREN.

By FRANZ BOAS.

INTRODUCTION.

In 1891, when active preparations for the World's Columbian Exposition were being made, Prof. F. W. Putnam, curator of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnography, and chief of the Department of Anthropology of the Exposition, placed me in charge of the section of Physical Anthropology. At an early time during the preparation of the exhibits we agreed upon a plan to represent as fully as possible the growth and the development of American children. Valuable material was available, but it seemed desirable to extend the investigations over regions in which heretofore no observations had been collected. I submitted our plans to Mr. James Hughes, superintendent of public schools in Toronto, Ontario, and to Prof. Earl Barnes, of Leland Stanford Junior University. Through the interest taken by these gentlemen I have been enabled to obtain series of measurements of the school children of Toronto and of Oakland, Cal. The former series was taken under the supervision of Dr. Alexander F. Chamberlain, the latter under the direction of Prof. Earl Barnes. In both of these series the same plan, excepting details, was followed.

In the following pages I intend to present some of the results of our investigations upon the children of Toronto, together with a few general statements which the treatment of the material and a study of the questions involved suggest.

Since in previous investigations the influence of sex, of occupation of parents, and of descent had been studied, it seemed desirable to investigate the influence of other causes. I selected for this purpose the influence of the order of birth, i. e., the question whether first-born children have a development different from that of later-born children.

The blank on which the observations were recorded was drawn up so as to cover not only this point, but also the influence of nationality and occupation of the parents—facts which it was necessary to note in order to determine their influence on the questions to be investigated. Blue blanks were used for females, white blanks for males. Here is a copy of both sides of the blank:

[Front.]

FEMALE.

Record all linear measurements at nearest centimeter; all weights at nearest pound.

No. (name in full).
Observer (name in full).
Place of observation.
School.
Date of observation.
Age: years, months.
Place of birth.
Nationality of father's father.
Nationality of father's mother.
Nationality of mother's father.
Nationality of mother's mother.
Place of birth of father.
(City and State or country.)
Place of birth of mother.
(City and State or country.)
Occupation of father:
At time of child's birth;
At time of observation.
Residence.
Number and ages of living brothers.
Number and ages of living sisters.
Number of deceased brothers.
Number of deceased sisters.
Born child of mother.
(State whether first, second, third child, etc.)

Stature without shoes.
Finger-reach.
Height, sitting.
Weight: pounds.
Hair: Black, brown, red, golden, fair, gray.
(If gray, record also the original color, if possible.)
Eyes: Black, brown.
Hazel, gray, blue.
Ability:
The following measurements to be taken by special observers only.
Length of head.
Breadth of head.
Breadth of face.
Height of face A.
Height of face B.
Breadth of hand.