

tions still remain on the merely interpretative plane. Nor can it readily be otherwise, for experimenting on man can only be done indirectly. It is, however, of much interest to observe how many workers, from many different sides, are now emphasising the environmental—the geographic—factor. There is a renewal of confidence in the aphorism—*Historiæ alter oculus geographia!* “Tell me the geography of a country,” Victor Cousin said, “and I will tell you its future.”

That the characteristics of a race are in part due to the influence of the physical environment was an idea familiar to Montesquieu and to Humboldt and characteristic of Le Play and of Buckle, and perhaps there is no one who would now think of maintaining a direct negative. But those who admit the reality of the factor are not unanimous as to its power. The question is, *how much* we can legitimately make the environment responsible for. Thus Buckle regarded the environmental factor as of special importance in relation to what he called primary civilisations, while later on the influence of people on people became more momentous. In other words, man has loosened the grip of the environment, and in many cases his emancipation has made him callous.

It is obvious that the configuration of a country may imply concentration, isolation, accessibility; that climate may partly account for sluggishness or industry, for carelessness or forethought; and that many consequences will follow from the resources of the soil, and the nature of the fauna and flora. The influence of the environmental factor is expounded in many books, e.g., Fairbanks' *Outlines of Sociology*; it seems more appropriate to our purpose to borrow from that work a quotation from