

Of special interest also is the fact of the foreign-born population being represented in almost the exact proportions which they hold in the census tables, and these thousands "of the best blood of the colonizing stock" came up by the side of English and Dutch descendants of six generations on American soil. The majority of my observations related to matters more of a professional than public interest, but at the same time I noted carefully the bodily conformation of each recruit in such a way as would enable me to classify them into several degrees of physical development. These notes were taken at my dictation by a clerk whose services I was enabled to secure, and on summing up the results of my observations, I find that I can draw comparisons between the different nationalities, which I hope will be found, from the large number examined, to be true in their main conclusions.

From the middle of July to the 1st of October, 8,700 recruits presented themselves to me to be inspected. Of this whole number, 4,538 were Americans, 1,694 were Irish, 1,453 were Germans, 345 English or Scotch, 135 French, and 545 belonged to 26 other nations. From this it will be seen that the native Americans exceeded by about a hundred the sum total of all other nationalities. The proportion of foreigners is naturally greater in recruits from New York than any other city. The first subject which naturally presented itself was the bodily stature and general physical appearance of the various recruits. In stature, the American born ranked the highest, the English next, the Irish next, the Germans next, and the French last.

We now come to the actual physical conformation of the various nationalities as deduced from my observations. I found it at first somewhat difficult to lay down clearly defined rules of classification, and I therefore adopted a very general division into four classes, which were respectively termed Prime, Good, Indifferent, and Bad. Under the head "Prime," I included first, those who had a well-proportioned osseous system, (the groundwork of the personal figure), as shown by the shape of the skull, the bones of the thorax and pelvis, and the lines of the extremities. The shape of the joints, the shape of feet and hands, and the condition of the ligaments was especially noted. Secondly came a good development of the muscular system, especially those of the lower extremities, as the most reliable indication of the vigor of spinal nutrition. Under the term "Good," were classed those who were then apparently healthy and strong, with more especially a good muscular development, but who did not equal the Prime in the development of the osseous system, from lack of lateral symmetry, bow legs, large joints, flat feet, etc. Under the head of "Indifferent" might be found good forms and tolerable muscular development, but who had tendencies to constitutional diseases, as well as a good many who may have had good constitutions originally, but had become deteriorated from various causes. Under the head "Bad" were such as had never been good nor ever would be so, from an originally vicious conformation.

The results of these observations are the following :

Of American-born Recruits, 47.5 per cent. had a prime physique; the Irish 35 per cent, and the Germans 40.75 per cent.

The per centage of Good Physique, was Americans, 36; Irish, 38; Germans, 38.5.