

produces similar effects upon those subjected to it. That is to say, the Negrito of Malacca and the Philippine Islands may resemble the Yolloff and the Bantu of Africa, because his climate and mode of life are similar. If this is not the case, it is singular, that, over the vast area in which either the Negrito or the Australian must have supplanted the other, there should be no evidence of mixture of race, no remains of a mixed race evidently sprung from the union of the two. You may say to me, that one race exterminated the other. I say that in early times it was impossible to conquer and exterminate a race over a vast area. It is hardly possible now for a very civilized to extirpate a very uncivilized race over a large tract of country. Much less was it possible then, when all the devilish enginery of modern war had not been invented, and the process of killing one's fellow was slow, and very far from sure.

We shall be still more doubtful of the value of the preceding classification as a guide to community of descent, when we notice how the shape of the skull, which one would think would be as fixed as the colour of the skin or the character of the hair, varies in all but the Australioid division. We know that abundance of good food will increase the size of many of the lower animals, and that by a process of artificial selection from among the varieties naturally produced we can change almost any character to an indefinite extent. May it not possibly be the case that the shape of the skull, and the colour of the skin, hair, and eyes and other physical characters may be the results of that natural selection which Darwin puts forward as the operative cause in originating species.

A great deal of light would be thrown on the question we have just raised, if it could be clearly shown that some physical character was either independent of, or dependent on the environment. For various reasons the character of colour seems to give greater promise of results than any other. We have a greater abundance of information in regard to it than any other, and it seems at any rate at first sight to vary according to a law.

"The colour of the skin" in the different races "varies from the very pale reddish brown of the so-called white races, through all shades of yellow and red brown to olive and chocolate, which may be so dark as to look black." That of the hair, varies from the flaxen of some northern races, to a very deep brown or bluish black. That of the eyes varies from a very light blue through different shades of blue,