

THE PASSING SHOWER.

(Arbor Lodge.)

From o'er the prairie the wind blows by,
The soft clouds float in the clear blue sky,
Afar, o'er meadows and fields of green,
The coming mist of the rain is seen.

Tall trees along the horizon stand;
Below is sinking the rolling land
In curving waves which fall and rise,
A tranquil, motionless sea it lies.

And down the slopes with their verdured
tint

The shower comes, and the faintest glint
Of silver gleam from its somber gray
Is shining out from its fringing spray.

And up the hills where the corn fields grow,
O'er orchards slanting in fruitful row,
O'er parching earth with its furrows deep,
The fresh drops fall in their onward sweep.

They reach the woodland that curves
between

The pasture cleft by the dark ravine,
And creep midst leaves as if sad to go
To paths that wind in the shade below.

The wet air comes like a swelling tide.
From great barn doors that are open wide
The farmer watches the bowing grain
That crowns his toil on the fertile plain.

From country homes, over hedged roads
down,

The shower comes to the dusty town,
And pelt and tunefully taps each pane
With rapid chime of a gay refrain.

Then, joining the turbid Missouri's sweep,
The darting drops in its current leap.
Borne on in flight o'er the basin land
To where, uprising, its outlines stand,

Still on beyond, o'er the distant view
Where hazy bluffs wear an opal hue,
The drifting cloud of a summer day
Melts out of sight in its fleeting way.

The sunbeams glance, when the rain has fled,
On lowly grasses with jewels spread,
And seek the gems in their hiding place
Within each flower's uplifted face.

The shining leaves and the trees upbear
A network radiant in the air.
The prairie smiles with the fresh, sweet
power

Of new life brought by the passing shower.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

HEADS WIN.

The San Francisco Daily Call of May 12, contains the following instructive and interesting telegram:

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, May 11—Dr. C. C. Closson, who is measuring the heads of the Stanford students in the gymnasium here in an endeavor to obtain data to substantiate the theory that the shape of the human skull has much to do with race movements and habits, will remain at his post until the end of the semester, when he will go to San Francisco to pursue his investigations among the Swiss, German and French inhabitants there. Next fall he will take the measurements at Berkely similar to those now being taken here.

One Hundred and Thirty Longheads.

Doctor Closson has examined about 130 students. Although he has not compiled the information obtained, he is able to say that a large majority of the men at the university are of the long-headed urban type, the chief char-

acteristics of which are migratory activity, energy, late marriages and small families. He is under the impression that there is a much larger number of blondes at Stanford than in the Eastern colleges, though in the shape of the head there is no material difference between them. It is asserted that Eastern college students are more narrow headed than those in England.

The Pioneer Type.

This fact has an important bearing on the statement that the long-headed type of people is responsible for the settlement of this country. It is known that in the north of Europe the long-headed type predominates, but it grows weaker toward the south. Hence the fact that the students of the United States are narrower headed than the students of England shows that even where the long-headed type predominates it is the most extreme cases of this formation that are the ones to migrate. The influence of their traits is one of the reasons why new countries develop rapidly until such numbers of the broad-headed or Alpine type, with their slow or stationary habits and average intellectuality, reduce the high activity of the pioneers, when the growth is slower. The same is to a certain extent true in the birth and growth of towns and cities.

The investigations being made by Doctor Closson and his colleagues in anthropological study have revealed some curious facts relative to the population of the United States. In the first place, it is believed that there is a tendency for blonde complexion and tall stature to associate with the narrow type of head. It is found from army measurement statistics that the people of the United States are taller than those of Continental Europe; that the people of the different nationalities who have migrated here are taller than their countrymen at home; that even the population of the Western United States averages taller than that of the East, while the people who come West from Massachusetts are taller than those left in Massachusetts.

Only Two Types.

These strange coincidences of physical characteristics with race movements have led anthropologists to arrive at the conclusion that there were originally two types of men—one short of stature, dark complexioned, broad-headed and sluggish in nature; the other, tall, narrow-headed, blonde, unsettled in habits and of an inquiring mind. The intermarriage of these two types has brought about the various kinds of men we have today, and so it in no wise refutes the theory to find a broad-headed man with the mental and domestic characteristics attributed to the other type, and vice versa. Nevertheless, this seems to be the exception, not the rule, and the general contour of the head still stands as the clearest exponent of

permanent hereditary differences in the human species. Not that these eminent scientists believe in "bumpology" and support fake phrenologists in their assertions that they can tell by fingering a man's cranium whether he is sentimental or sour, a thief or a parson, a poet or a scientist, but the color of the eyes and the size of the human stature are liable to modifications by local circumstances, while the shape of people's heads is little influenced by climate, food or habits.

A Broad View.

This wide view of mankind is not of as great importance to the particular group of anthropologists to which Doctor Closson belongs, as is the question of social stratification and displacement. Society has often been likened to a pyramid, whose base is the bone and sinew of the land and the apex the upper classes, but this likeness can be carried still farther—the base being largely of the broad-headed type of men, graduating toward the top into a predominance of the narrow-headed. The pyramid is constantly changing. People are dropping off at the top and being recruited from the ablest representatives of the lower classes. It is known as a fact that several generations ago the average family of genteel parents was eight children, where now it is only two.

Plain People.

From the large common class of society grow two distinct classes—one, the intelligent middle class in city and country, whose members have medium-sized families, but somehow fail to materially better their condition; and the other, the upper class, with nervous, energetic characteristics and small families. Both of these latter two classes, the majority of whom are narrow headed, tend to die out, but the number of generations necessary to accomplish this has not been determined. This is one of the things which Doctor Closson, Doctor Sargent of Harvard, and Doctor Ripley of Columbia are now attempting to find out, and at the same time discover the exact effect of education and refinement on the size of the family.

The study in California will afford data, though necessarily incomplete, as to the size of families among Californians. What the ultimate result of the investigation in anthropology in Europe and the United States will reveal is only a surmise, but it is liable to cause a reconstruction of ideas as to the history of the human race, and will undoubtedly throw considerable light on our obscure past. Already the investigations have led to a well-defined belief, supported by solid reasoning, that the home of the Aryan race was in the center of Europe, rather than in India, and that the blonde, narrow-headed type of man originated in Scandinavia, when that land was larger and its climate more suitable for human habitation.