

fossil jaw; and you have remembered with pride that M. Boucher de Perthes has been for three years one of the six honorary members of your society.

Gentlemen, when, four years ago, some of us formed the project of founding an anthropological society, doubts were raised as to the possibility of success; we were threatened with the indifference of the public. We were, however, not discouraged, and we were right. We were then nineteen; we are now two hundred. Let us then proceed resolutely.

As for myself, gentlemen, I must apologize for having so long occupied your attention; but I cannot quit this tribune without thanking you for the honour you have done me by appointing me general secretary. You might have chosen a worthier, but not a more devoted one.

ON THE SUPPOSED INCREASING PREVALENCE OF DARK HAIR IN ENGLAND.

By JOHN BEDDOE, M.D., F.A.S.L., &c.

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It is the opinion of some scientific,* and of many unscientific observers, that light hair is gradually becoming less common in England than it used to be; and, while some confine the bearing of this statement within the limits of their own lifetime and observation, others extend it to previous centuries, attaching great importance to the terms in which our Saxon, Danish, and Norman† ancestors are described as having red, yellow, or other light shades of hair.

I do not wish to discuss, in the present article, the question whether this opinion has any foundation in fact. Some light might be thrown upon it by a careful examination of the national and other portrait galleries; and I incline to think that the portraits of the worthies of the sixteenth century would lend some little support to the notion. I merely wish to point out that if the fact be so, or so far as it is so, it may be accounted for by other causes than those which have usually

* *E. g.* of Mrs. Somerville, *Physical Geography*.

† Dr. Bird, of Swansea, informs me that the chapel of the Anglo-Norman garrison at Brecon was anciently known as "the chapel of the red haired." This is a rather striking fact, as red hair is not uncommon among the South Welsh themselves at the present day.

been assigned to it. In the first place, the large towns, and other more civilized and populous parts of England, have for some time past been receiving constant streams of immigrants from Ireland, Wales, Damnonia, the Highlands, and other Celtic districts, in which dark hair abounds. In the second, I am disposed to think that the xanthous temperament, though probably better adapted to the climate of these islands than the melanous, is less able to endure some of the anti-hygienic agencies which operate on the crowded populations of our great towns; and that thus the law of natural selection operates against its multiplication. And, in the third place, as a large minority of women live and die unmarried and without offspring, it is probable that the physical qualities of the race may be to some small extent moulded by the action of *conjugal* as well as of natural selection. In order to test the tendency of this hypothetical influence, I have extracted from my note-books particulars of the social condition (viz., whether married or single), and of the colour of the hair, of 737 women, aged between twenty and fifty, who came under my observation at the Bristol Royal Infirmary: these I have thrown into the form of a table, which will, I hope, be sufficiently intelligible.

Social Condition.	COLOUR OF HAIR.					Total Number.	Per Cent.
	Red.	Fair.	Brown.	Dk. Brown.	Black.		
Married* . . .	22	52.5	145	234.5	26	480	65
Single . . .	10	35	73.5	73.5	6	198	27
Doubtful† . .	1	7	21.5	28.5	1	59	8
Totals . . .	33	94.5	240	336.5	33	737	100

The indications of the above table may be rendered more clear by the following one, in which I have assumed the number under each colour to be 100, and have reduced to percentages the different conditions in each class.

Social Condition.	COLOUR OF HAIR.				
	Red.	Fair.	Brown.	Dk. Brown.	Black.
Married	67	55.5	60.5	69.5	79
Single	30	37	30.5	22	18
Doubtful	3	7.5	9	8.5	3
Totals	100	100	100	100	100

* Including widows.

† These were persons who described themselves by their occupation only: they were probably for the most part either single women or widows.

Lastly, still further to simplify the matter, we may throw together the red, fair, and brown classes under the head of “blonde,” and the dark-brown and black under that of “dark,” of which two the former will include 367 women, and the latter 369. The results will be as follows :—

Social Condition.	BLONDE.		DARK.	
	Number.	Per Cent.	Number.	Per Cent.
Married	219.5	60	260.5	70.5
Single	118.5	32	79.5	21.5
Doubtful	29.5	8	29.5	8
Totals	367.5	100	369.5	100

The deduction I should make from these figures is, that, whether because the mass of the population does not sympathize with the preference which artists and poets have always manifested in favour of fair hair, or from some other cause, fewer of light-haired women than of dark-haired get married in this part of England.* Then if during several generations this should continue to be the case, is it not probable that the relative proportion of the favoured colour would considerably increase, in accordance with the laws of hereditary influence ?

ON THE ABBEVILLE JAW.

By A. DE QUATREFAGES,

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TRANSLATED BY GEORGE FREDERICK ROLPH, Esq.

WHEN I was informed of the discovery which M. de Perthes had made, I speedily proceeded to ascertain the facts of the case as soon as it was possible to leave Paris. At Abbeville I had the good fortune to meet with Dr. Falconer, the eminent English palæontologist, who had arrived there before me. With this competent and highly qualified

* In some young women the hue of the hair continues to darken after they have overpassed the twentieth year, though in others it attains its maximum of darkness within a very few years after puberty. I mention this fact because it may, and probably does, account for a part of the difference between the proportions of the married in the several classes.