Prehistoric Problems, Being a Selection of Essays On the Evolution of Man and Other Controverted Problems in Anthropology and Archæology

Munro Robert
PREHISTORIC PROBLEMS
OTHER WORKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

ANCIENT SCOTTISH LAKE-DEWLLINGS, OR CRANNOGS.
WITH A SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTER ON REMAINS OF LAKE-DEWLLINGS
IN ENGLAND. NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS. DEMY 8vo, 31s.

THE LAKE-DEWLLINGS OF EUROPE. BEING AN EXPANSION
OF THE RHIND LECTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY FOR 1888. WITH
ILLUSTRATIONS OF OVER 2000 OBJECTS. LARGE 8vo, 31s. 6d.

RAMBLES AND STUDIES IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
AND DALMATIA. WITH AN ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CONGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND ANTHROPOLOGISTS HELD IN SARAJEVO, AUGUST 1894. PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED. DEMY 8vo, 12s. 6d. net.

In Preparation.

PREHISTORIC SCOTLAND. BEING THE INTRODUCTORY VOLUME TO BLACKWOOD'S "COUNTY HISTORIES OF SCOTLAND" SERIES.
PREHISTORIC PROBLEMS

BY

ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., F.R.S.E.

SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

Hon. Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland;
Member of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; Correspond. Member
of the Anthrop. Societies of Berlin and Vienna,
&c., &c.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
MDCCXCII

All Rights reserved
Of the original papers which form the nucleus of this volume, that "On the Relation between the Erect Posture and the Physical and Intellectual Development of Man," which formed the Presidential Address at the Anthropological Section of the British Association in 1893, alone remains unchanged. Previous to that time the erect posture had not, to my knowledge, been regarded as an important factor in the evolution of man, but more recently opinions tending in that direction have emanated from several quarters. I consider, therefore, that whatever value may be attached to the views then expressed, it is better now to leave them in the actual garb in which they originally appeared; more especially as I regard the fossil bones discovered by Dr Dubois, in Java, as a practical illustration of their truth. Readers have thus an opportunity of comparing conclusions, arrived at in a mere academical essay, with a description of the actual remains of a being
PREFACE.

which, undoubtedly, is the oldest known link between civilised man and the brute creation. The few additions made to this chapter are, therefore, in the form of footnotes. In this way I have the privilege of introducing some important observations on the mechanism of the human foot, which were expressed by the late Professor Huxley in a friendly communication to myself. On receipt of his letter, I wrote asking permission to print his remarks as a comment on that portion of my address, as I then fully intended to carry out his suggestion of publishing it in a more permanent form without delay. To this request he replied (3d December 1893) as follows: "I hope you will carry out your intention of republishing your essay. As to what I said about the foot, pray make any use of it you see fit."

The chapters on "Fossil Man" and "Intermediary Links," although read at Societies in Edinburgh (the former at the Royal Physical Society, February 17, 1897, and the latter at the Royal Society, January 4, 1897), were virtually written for this volume, with the object of giving a more practical shape to the views set forth on the causes of the higher brain-development of man.

A portion of the chapter on the "Rise and Progress of Anthropology" formed an address to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, delivered at the request of the Council, May 7, 1894. The additional matter now incorporated with it has enabled me to present the
subject in a less scrappy manner than was possible within the limits of a single address, and also to bring the sketch later down so as to cover some of the more recent researches.

The first portion of the article on "Prehistoric Trepansing and Cranial Amulets" was published in the 'Fortnightly Review,' February 1893; but the subject-matter is now considerably enlarged by the addition of further discoveries.

The remarkable story unfolded by the correlation of these so-called Otter and Beaver traps is a continuation of that communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, January 12, 1891. At that time I could find evidence of only eleven traps; now they number thirty-five. The records of the discovery of these mysterious machines, and of the various speculations propounded as to their function, supply the materials of an instructive object-lesson in comparative archaeology.

The notes on "Bone Skates" were also a communication to the same Society on March 12, 1894; and in reproducing them here few changes have been made, beyond a slight increase in the number of bone skates recorded.

Part I. of the chapter on "Prehistoric Saws and Sickles" was read at the Anthropological Section of the British Association in September 1893, and published the following December in the 'Illustrated Archaeologist.' In the present work the subject is continued so as to
embrace the modifications entailed in the structure of these implements, by the introduction of bronze and iron into Europe.

The archaeological articles are more especially intended to illustrate the methods and results of comparative archaeology; but, apart from this, I trust none of them will be found barren of interest to those who are anxious to keep themselves au courant with the general progress of archaeology.

The special feature of the book is, however, the attempt to correlate the phenomena of man's environments (chapters ii., iii., and iv.) with the corporeal changes necessitated by his higher intelligence, and to place a summary of the results before general readers. Nor is it necessary to offer any apology for ventilating in public the opinions thus formulated; for the story of the development of man can never cease to have a fascination to his living representatives, so long as their supremacy in the organic world is upheld by virtue of the moral and reasoning faculties. The great altruistic world of Ethics is a secondary growth, and subsequent to the phenomena with which we are more immediately concerned. Our data go back to the primary rootlets of that marvellous process of cerebration by means of which man has become, par excellence, a reflective being, and a governing power on this globe. It is the story of an event unique in the organic world—an event which has already culminated in his laying a usurping
hand on the reins of Cosmic evolution. Next to the method of natural selection by "survival of the fittest," there is no more conspicuous landmark in the evolutionary career of man than that which signalises the co-ordination of manipulative skill with progressive intelligence.

The great diversity of the materials thus discussed has correspondingly increased my obligations to fellow-workers. It would, indeed, be tedious to specify in detail the amount of assistance I have received, both \textit{viva voce} and by correspondence, from curators of museums and private collectors, in bringing together so many facts from the different areas covered by these essays. I cannot, however, refrain from specially acknowledging the services of the following gentlemen: Dr Conwentz, Danzig; Dr Voss, Berlin; Dr Meschinelli and Sig. Lioy, Vicenza; the late Dr Deschmann and Professor Müllner, Laibach; the late Dr Rambotti, Desenzano; Dr Forbes, Liverpool; Professor Duns, Edinburgh; Mr H. Allingham, Ballyshannon; Dr Fraser, Dublin; Mr W. Knowles, Ballymena; and the late Canon Grainger, Broughshane.

I am also indebted to a number of authors and learned Societies for kindly granting permission to copy a few specified illustrations and to take extracts from their published works. On these grounds I have specially to thank Dr Dubois and Mr G. T. Newton, F.R.S., for the large demands I have made on their