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(1946) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

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G.O. No. 377

Dated

21/2/46

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[Despatch Abstract.]

*Aiyappa - A. A. Superintendent
Government Museum - permitted
to broadcast a talk*

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	

Farther Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Special

C.F. 32 (a).

From (Name) Sri A. Aiyappan,
M.A., Ph.D.,
Designation Superintendent,
Government Museum,
Station Madras.

Received..... Registered.....
To
The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health
Department,
Fort St. George.

Enclosures:

No. 349-1/66 dated 20 February 1946.

Sir,

Sub: Government servants - Conduct Rules -
Dr. A. Aiyappan, Superintendent, Government
Museum - Permission to broadcast talk -
Requested.

Under rule 27 of the Government servants conduct rules, I have the honour to request that Government will be pleased to permit me to give a broadcast talk in English on 'Studies in Anthropology' at the All India Radio Broadcasting House, Egmore, Madras, on the 24th February 1946 at 8.30 P.M. and to receive an honorarium for it. The full text of talk is enclosed for reference. It is not connected with my official work.

I have the honour to be,
sir,
Your most obedient servant,

A. Aiyappan
Superintendent. 19.2.1946

10417.

The science of anthropology is really a child of the evolutionary movement. 1859 which saw the "Origin of Species" published is the datum line for an independent science of anthropology. Till the beginning ~~xxxx~~ of the present century, it pursued its way unnoticed by authority, a playground for the amateur, a recondite, informal and somewhat despised study making little claim upon public attention or public funds. The situation has changed very much in recent years. In the United States of America alone there are about 2000 full-time or part-time anthropologists. No university worth the name in Europe is without a department devoted to the subject. In our own country, Sir Asutosh Mukerjee when in charge of the Calcutta University provided ~~that University~~ ^{at} with the beginnings of excellent facilities for teaching and research in anthropology. In addition to the provision for ~~anthropological~~ academic work in the subject, several administrations in Africa and Australia employ Government anthropologists to assist the governments in handling questions affecting the welfare and development of backward tribes and communities. It is more or less obligatory for members of the higher grades of African colonial service to obtain a grounding in anthropology in order that they may be able to understand their charges and their culture better than by their unaided common sense. Apart from administrators, I understand that the ^{Sydney} University Department of Anthropology during the last decade trained about 70 missionaries in the elements of anthropology, because the missionary is as much interested in the welfare of the "flock" as the administrator. Sir Theodore Tasker, ~~xxxxxxx Indian Civil Service xxxxxxxx Probationers' Training Camp at Dehra Dun used to be very particular that the highest class of civil servants in this subcontinent should have some familiarity with xxx anthropology. The reason for this is very clear. India with its multiplicity of castes, creeds, communities and languages is not a simple administrative unit. Place a Maurasi civilian in charge of a district in Assam, and you need have no doubt that a little anthropology will make him a better administrator. Of the increase in caste, caste will~~

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I have so far talking to you about some of the applications of social anthropology to practical administrative matters. There is also the second branch of anthropology, namely physical anthropology the practical aspects of which I shall now briefly refer to. Physical anthropology concerns itself with the study of the whole range of variations in the bodily types of the various human groups. The foundations of the study were laid about a hundred years ago by Blumenbach. With the help of detailed measurements of the various parts of the body, the physical anthropologist tries to ~~xxxxxxx~~ find the norm and ^{the} range of variations for the characters he is investigating. Let me give an illustration or two. During the World War II, the German army is said to have been the best shod army in the world. The reason as given by the editor of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology is this: Russian anthropologists were asked to conduct a foot survey of all the Soviet States. Thousands of feet were measured and the frequencies of the several sizes estimated statistically, and ^{the} shoe ~~factories~~ knew definitively what numbers of each ^{size} would normally be required. I have seen small men in the Indian army going about dragging ~~xxxxxxx~~ instead of walking in their big boots. A little applied anthropology and mathematics ~~xxxxxxx~~ could have saved a lot of foot trouble. Another example to show how the anthropologist's estimate of the normal ~~xxxx~~ physical type is essential in industry. In air craft, especially bombers, it is ~~xxxx~~ necessary that the pilots and the crew should have adequate room but not an excess of it as that will be wastage. If your crew will be normally men of the 5ft 4 in stature class, to make your ~~xxxxxxx~~ fighter or bomber for a six foot class will be a stupid thing. For recruitment to the various services in the army various physical standards are prescribed. The object in this is to eliminate a very outset men who are below normal. It is again ^{for} the physical anthropologist assisted by the statistician ~~who~~ say whether the army estimate of normality is correct or not. In vocational selection, the physical type such as the asthenic, pyknic and athletic will be useful aid to the selecting agency. In health surveys, ~~xxx~~ certain types are believed to be ~~xx~~ particularly susceptible to infections of one kind or other. For example there is a current belief that the Negro, as the result of inherited ~~disposition~~ predisposition, is specially liable to

culosis, but recent investigations have given the lie to this popular belief. Various methods are used in health surveys to estimate the nutritional status of groups and individuals. I need not tell you how important it is to have some means, simple yet not misleading, to judge whether a boy or girl is below or above the normal nutritional standard. For this it is absolutely necessary that we should know what is the normal physical standard for the group, such as the weight and height for each age group. Clinical and physiological tests, apart from their complexity, are not practicable propositions when we have large populations to deal with. Here is a subject in which the physical anthropologist can do very useful work.

A question still somewhat theoretical is about the relative roles of nurture and nature. We now know very definitely that the contribution of heredity, i.e., nature, is far greater than that of the environment. If as a result of intense study the eugenicist and the educationist could be told ~~what~~ what particular defects in a man or woman are hereditary and what due to nurture, planning for a better breed of men and for better education will be far easier than it is today. But to disentangle the consequences of ^{the} natural and artificial make up of a character is not all ^{an} easy task. But the problem has been attacked in recent years by the study, spread over years, of twins. In the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Anthropology in Berlin, I had the privilege of observing how thoroughly Prof. Eugen Fischer had organised research work on twins. In all parts of Germany he had his helpers and arrangements were made to cover the lives of twins from the time of their birth to their death, and files and photographs for each pair were stored in the record room. Fischer's work on twins I should tell you is a scientific romance! Similar work carried out in all parts of the world will give medical men and educationists a world of data, the significance of which you can easily understand. The study of twins has already ~~demonstrated~~ indicated that criminality to a certain extent is inherited. A friend of mine investigating the bodily character of criminals in jails of Calcutta has suggested that certain peculiar patterns occur with greater frequency on the palms of criminals. Crime is a social disease bred in bad environment but it seems to have a genetical basis and if the latter is definitely proved, ~~radical~~ ^{strong} remedial measures will be required for the eradication of crime.

I hope I have said enough to indicate to you that anthropology can usefully accumulate data on the basis of which it will be possible in some measure to control the future of mankind.

En. 4. p. A. Dept

C. No. 910/46

From the S. G. M. No. 349-1/46 of 20-2-46
Sub: Aiyappan, Dr. A. - Superintendent, Government
Museum - permitted to broadcast a talk.
Order 377 En. dated 21/2/46
Rs.

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to
21/2/46

Dr. A. Aiyappan, Superintendent, Government
Museum is permitted to broadcast a talk
in English on "Studies in Anthropology", on
24th February '46 at the All-India Radio
Station, Madras and to receive the honorarium
offered.

21/2/46
21.2.46
21.2.46

21/2/46

The Station Director
All India Radio,
Kolkata, Station

Note: There is nothing objectionable in the talk
21.2.46

21/2/46

Jan 2. 1904

Chippewas

Chippewas, at a distance of 20-30 miles from the coast, are said to be a tall, slender, and athletic people.

Dr. A. H. Henshaw, at a distance of 20-30 miles from the coast, is said to be a tall, slender, and athletic people.

Chippewas
at a distance of 20-30 miles from the coast

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