

The World Knows—

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English character depends on a dull cold climate and a stern tradition, and how much on actual racial peculiarities, inherited from hundreds of generations? When you get into the psychology of race, you find yourself in a fine mess. It's a subject of which it is very hard to be unbiased. It is very difficult not to believe that your own particular type is the highest thing in creation.

There seems to be among all peoples a desire to believe one's own blood racially pure. One constantly hears such phrases as "pure British stock," "untainted English blood," and the like. The fact is, of course, that there isn't such a thing as a drop of pure British blood in the whole world. That is, if we mean by "pure British blood" a person who is descended from one unmixed British race. The British, as I think Professor Shelley pointed out from 3YA a few weeks ago, is a race of mongrels in a thoroughly mongrel world. There is, in our blood, elements from almost every corner of the world. The point is, of course, that, racially speaking, there is nothing to be ashamed of in being a mongrel. Rather the reverse. The Tasmanian aborigines were a fairly pure race, and their culture was one of the lowest in the world.

You can never understand the mental characters of nations unless you know the racial mixtures of which they are composed. Take Europe alone. There is no nation in Europe which is racially pure, or anything like it. But there are in Europe three great separate races. All the European nations are made in the main of these three races, mixed in somewhat different proportions.

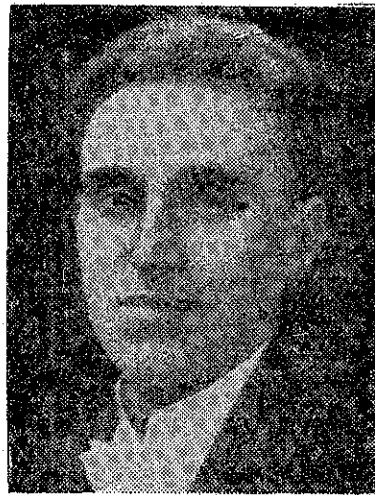
You have coming down from the North of Europe the Nordic race, a tall, fair-haired, blue-eyed narrow-faced, and narrow-headed people. If you think round among your friends you will probably pick on one who fits in with this description more or less. But you can be pretty sure that even he is far from being a pure Nordic. The Swedes are probably the nearest to pure Nordics. Then, from the south of Europe, from the shores of the Mediterranean come the Mediterranean race. They were short, slim, dark, and narrow-headed. The nearest thing to a pure Mediterranean type is now to be found in Sicily. Sandwiched in between these two races we find a third race, the Alpines, who were short, dark, thick-set, and with heads sometimes almost as broad as they were long.

Now, since the Nordics came from the north of Europe, it is only to be expected that we should find a greater proportion of Nordic blood in the northern countries than in the southern, and a corresponding preponderance of short, dark Mediterraneans in the south of Europe. This is actually the case. It is usually estimated, for instance, that the people of the British Isles are, very roughly, 60 per cent. Nordic, 30 per cent. Mediterranean, and 10 per cent. Alpine. The people of France are supposed to be 25 per cent. Nordic, 50 per cent. Alpine, and 25 per cent. Mediterranean. The people of Spain and Southern Italy are mainly Mediterranean.

These proportions, of course, are not

much more than guesses. But you do certainly find a much greater number of tall, fair people in, say, the north of England, than you do in the south of France. Even in France itself, as you work southwards, you find the people getting shorter and darker.

These physical differences are of no great importance for our purpose. The interesting thing is that there seem to have been very marked mental and temperamental differences between, say, the Nordics and the Mediterraneans. These differences seem to have passed on to their modern descendants. Take the case of suicide, for example.



Lambert Harvey,

who will be heard from 1YA in two solos: "If I Can't Live" (Stephenson) and "Absent" (Metcalf) on Friday, December 23.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

I have said that as you move northward through France the people become fairer and taller. But as they become fairer they also become more liable to commit suicide.

The yearly suicide rate in the south of France is under 50 per million inhabitants. In some parts of northern France it is over 350 per million. It almost looks as if fairness of hair were a cause of suicide. The difference, of course, is due to the fact that the fair Nordics are more liable to suicide than the dark Mediterraneans. You find exactly the same state of affairs in England. The suicide rate is over 100 per million in the North of England, where the Nordic blood predominates. It is less than 40 per million in Wales and Cornwall, where the old Alpine and Mediterranean blood of the ancient Britons is still strong. It is lowest of all in Ireland, which has more fights and fewer suicides than almost any part of Europe. The Irish have very little Nordic blood in them. The differences between Nordic and Mediterranean in this respect are really striking. The suicide rate in Denmark, a very Nordic country, is 268 per million; in Southern Italy it is 26 per million, or exactly one-tenth.

It becomes all the more interesting when we find that the higher the suicide rate the lower the murder rate. Apparently the less inclination you have for killing yourself the more inclination other people have to kill you. Southern Italy used to have the highest murder rate and the lowest suicide

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Broadcasts Past, Present and Future

The Kingsleys

CHARLES KINGSLEY can scarcely be regarded as so prolific a writer as Weatherly, his great Victorian contemporary, who survived to write "Roses in Picardy" and "Danny Boy" in days when "The Holy City" and "The Midshipmite" had been forgotten. Nevertheless, Kingsley has appealed variously to composers. "Three Fishers," "Lorraine, Lorraine Loree," "The Sands of Dee," and "Oh, That We Two Were Maying," have all been set to music, while "Clear and Cool," and "I Once Had a Dear Little Doll, Dears," have been sung as lyrics incidental to the production of "Water Babies" on the stage.

In the lecture to be given from 4YA on December 28 two of Charles Kingsley's songs are to be sung, "The Sands

name from the roll of Victorian novelists.

The name of Charles Kingsley is a peg upon which many literary associations may be hung. His attack on John Henry Newman elicited the "Apologia Pro Vita Sua," which is today regarded as one of the monuments of English prose style. His friendship with the father of the late Sir Edmund Gosse provides us with a link with Darwinism, that great phenomenon which over-clouded the Victorian era. His association with Lewis Carroll and the publishing of "Alice in Wonderland," shows us another facet of this many-sided man.

N.Z. Writer Broadcasts

MISS NELLIE SCANLAN, New Zealand authoress, will broadcast from 2YA in January a series of lectures as under:—

January 5: "Literary Personalities." Brief sketches of distinguished writers I have met, with anecdotes.

January 12: "Modern Tendencies in Book, Art, and Living." A talk about fashions and tendencies in the modern world, touching upon several phases, such as books, pictures, architecture, furniture, dress—factors that express the post-war mind and its attitude toward life.

January 19: "Important People." A talk about distinguished men and women I have met, with anecdotes.

January 26: "Count Your Blessing." Contrasting conditions in New Zealand with those of other countries, picking out interesting features in foreign lands, relating personal experiences, during travel.

Premier of Tonga Speaks

A SURPRISE awaited 2YA listeners on Tuesday night when the Premier of Tonga, the Hon. Mr. Tugi, spoke to listeners. Tonga always regards New Zealand as her big brother, he said, adding that he was very glad of the opportunity of being able to spend this visit among his friends in New Zealand. In the last two years advances had been made in Tonga, a fairly lonely group of islands which have been kept in touch with the outside world mainly by newspapers and radio. In his arrival in New Zealand he had observed many things he had not seen before. Last Wednesday he heard a talk for the first time. Silent pictures were in Tonga, but this new invention had not found its way to them, and for the first time he saw an aeroplane in flight.

The population of the island is 28,000 spread over the several islands constituting the group. Copra and fresh fruit are the main exports, and at present Tonga, like everywhere else, is suffering because of the low values. They had felt the depression keenly, but are hoping for better times in the future. The Hon. Mr. Tugi spoke in his native language to his countrymen who would be listening in, and then told listeners what he had said. He told them of the hospitality of New Zealanders, and how he was enjoying his short holiday in their midst.



Billy Hart,

the versatile 2YA vocalist, who will give a series of popular songs at the piano on Tuesday, December 27.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.

of Dee" and "Oh, That We Two Were Maying." Ethelbert Neven's popular setting will be sung in the latter case.

Charles Kingsley's less-known and less-fortunate brother, Henry, will be represented by a work which came into the possession of the lecturer in manuscript only. The composer is Sir Henry Hadow, known to musicians rather as an historian of music than as a composer. This beautiful lyric opens with the words: "Magdalen at Michael's gate tried at the pin." To "tire at the pin" is to knock for admission. The phrase is a Scotch one.

It is proposed to give in this lecture thumbnail sketches of Charles Kingsley and of Henry Kingsley, the little-known author of "Ravenshoe," who showed such brilliant promise, but failed to justify that promise.

Reference will be made to Lucas Malet, Charles Kingsley's daughter, whose recent death removed a great