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## PREHISTORIC ANTHROPOLOGY.

[ABSTRACT.]

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Address of the Retiring President, Mr. Mills, Delivered at the November Meeting of the Biological Club, at Orton Hall.

Mr. Mills gave a review of prehistoric Anthropology, which is accredited to the scientists of Denmark, who had stamped the meaning upon the word Anthropology, designating it as a science well recognized and as definite as the science of Botany, Chemistry, Zoology or Geology. He also reviewed the obstacles encountered by the investigators in the study of prehistoric Anthropology. A great many of the discoveries were due to the persistence of Professor Steenstrup, one of the Commissioners of Denmark, who first discovered that prehistoric man had the domesticated dog by finding bones that had the appearance of being gnawed. By applying these observations to the village sites of Ohio, Mr. Mills was able to discover at the Baum village site along Paint creek, and the Gartner Mound along the Scioto, a number of bones that had the appearance of being gnawed, and this led to the discovery of the domesticated dog at this place. These bones were afterward sent to the National Museum, and there identified and

described by Professor F. A. Lucas as a species much the size and proportion of the bull terrier, and resembling very much the dogs found in the old village sites in Texas and the old Pueblos.

Mr. Mills also stated that at the present time in all Europe every dolman and village site is known to the scientist; the borders of all the inland lakes have been studied with care, for it was thought that many of them were sites of sunken forests, and many of these sunken trees could easily be detected in time of low water. But as investigations went forward it was soon shown, after lifting one of those trees from its bed, that it was a sharpened pile, bearing evidence of human workmanship; that these had been driven into the ground and the tops of these piles in the remote past served as the sites of the homes of these early people. At the same time a study of the various implements found in the shell heaps of Denmark and in the inland lakes of Switzerland and dolmans of various parts of Europe, brought out the fact of the similarity of the implements of these different countries. Therefore, by reason of this similarity, the scientists of that time were able to determine the prehistoric ages by comparing the different implements of these various countries and the recognition of the resemblance between them, and by so doing they were able to correlate and identify the culture of early man. It was also found in later years, as the knowledge of prehistoric world increased, that this great similarity of European implements was found to extend to the Western Hemisphere; that practically all of the implements and ornaments made of stone, bone and shell found in Europe could be readily duplicated in the United States. Ever since the establishment of the science of Anthropology the question that has been uppermost in the mind of the anthropologist is to find out the origin of the people that inhabited this country. In relation to their unity or diversity the scientists of this country have been accepting the evidence furnished by craniology, by language and by social institutions of the American tribes and their predecessors.

Dr. Morton, in 1839, brought out the idea of the homogeneous physical characteristics of the aborigines of America, extending from Terra del Fuego to the Arctic circle, and it has been accepted without question, and has more recently been made the basis of a widely comprehensive deduction. Other scientists believe that the American Indian is essentially separate and peculiar, a race distinct from all others.

A review of all the theories advanced on both sides was extensively discussed, but the speaker could not bring out all the points that may be produced to show the unity or the diversity of the human race, but was sure that the student of anthropology, with the wealth of material and opportunities now afforded, will be able in time to solve the problem which for the last three-fourths

of a century has been troubling us, namely, the problem of the unity or the diversity of prehistoric man in America.

Mr. Mills also reviewed the work of the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society at the Baum village site along Paint creek and at the Gartner Mound along the Scioto. At the Baum village the work this year fully demonstrated that the people lived in small clans or family groups; that these clans had their own burial grounds, refuse pits, etc. Explorations carried on in previous years developed no burials having earthen jars placed with them. However, during the past year's work burials were found with earthen jars placed at the head. These jars invariably contained a spoon made of ocean shell or the back of the common land turtle, cut in form to be used for the same purpose. In other jars large awls were found, which were no doubt used for conveying food to the mouth.

The light that is thrown upon one brief period of the past by the study of these village sites, surrounded as they are by the mounds and earthworks of that by-gone people, testifies that they were agriculturists as well as hunters; that they lived in the family group or clan; that each clan was versed in the manufacture of pottery, ornaments and implements; that they had the domesticated dog, and that this dog resembles very much the dogs found in the Southwest and even in Mexico. Moreover, these people had communication with the world other than their own habitation, as is evidenced by the intercourse with which they obtained mica, copper, obsidian and ocean shell.

The latter part of the summer was devoted to mound work, and the Gartner mound, situated about six miles north of Chillicothe, was thoroughly examined. Here very many new and interesting things were discovered. Large pieces of perfect pottery were found with burials, and in some cases the material ready to be made into pottery was placed with the burial. A large platform was uncovered, extending thirty-four feet east and west and twenty-three feet north and south. The platform was made of tamped clay and covered over the top with ashes ranging in thickness from six inches to two and one-half feet; these ashes were filled with animal bones, implements and ornaments of these people. In all forty-four skeletons were removed from this mound. Seventy-five per cent. of these skeletons had implements and ornaments placed with them. Great quantities of the canine teeth of the mountain lion and wolf were found, also large shell gorgets set with pearls. Taking it all in all this is one of the most interesting mounds examined in this section.