

Section of Anthropology.

Abstracts.

1. A new photographic apparatus for recording profiles of living persons.

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One great disadvantage of measurements on the living is the want of standardisation which renders the greater part of the data collected by different workers practically useless for comparison. In this new apparatus a profile photograph of the subject is taken with the help of a parallel beam of light. The results are practically free from appreciable personal errors. In one series of experiments six photographs of the same subject were taken by different observers at different times. The readings usually agreed within one per cent. and even the maximum difference did not exceed two per cent. The apparatus can be adjusted very quickly, and it will be possible to take from 20 to 30 photographs per hour.

At first great difficulty was experienced in arranging a correct registration of a fixed point of reference (which coincides approximately with the centre of the ear-hole in the present apparatus). This difficulty was overcome by Mr. Narendranath Sen, under whose supervision the instrument has been constructed, with the help of a precise optical device which leaves a very fine point trace on the paper.