



**Review: 30**

Reviewed Work(s):

*Gurkhas. Handbook for the Indian Army.* by C. J. Morris  
Leonhard Adam

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short of stature, long but small of head (small when compared with European standards), nose prominent and long, black-haired and dark, tawny brown in colour of skin. This Dr. Guha regards as the essential and prevalent Indian type, and I agree with him. Baron von Eickstedt has named it the *Melanide* racial type and regards it as a product of the open spaces of the Deccan.

(2) A type represented by the Nagar Brahmins; it differs from the last chiefly in the form of head; the occiput tends to be flat, not full, as in the last. Dr. Guha regards type 1 as the basal form and type 2 as a superimposition (an intrusion) upon type 1.

(3) A type represented by the Pathan, taller and less pigmented than types 1 and 2; long-headed, long-faced, usually cast in a larger mould than types 1 and 2; nose long and prominent. This may be described as an Aryan type. Every stage between types 1 and 3 is to be found between Sind and Assam.

(4) A type which differs from type 1 in having a small flat nose, short, wide face, hair black, wavy or curly. It predominates among the tribes of central and southern India. It is akin to the Vedda's and to the Sakai of the Malay Peninsula. Baron von Eickstedt has named it the *Vedide* type or race, and regards it as a product of the hills. For my part I incline to regard Dr. Guha's type 1 as the evolved form of type 4; every stage in the passage from the lower to the higher is to be observed.

(5) A type which differs from the last only in its small make of body and in its tendency to have the hair spirally curled. The type is best seen amongst the Kadars and Pulayans of the south. This is but a variant of type 4; every stage between the two occurs.

(6) A brachycephalic mongoloid type represented by the Bhutanese; it occurs along the foothills of the Himalayas from Kashmir to Assam.

(7) Another mongoloid type which differs from the last in the head being long rather than round, and with more pronounced nasal development than in type 6. Dr. Guha has cited the Angami Nagas as representative of this type. Shape of head is not necessarily a fundamental racial character. I believe types 6 and 7 represent the same stock, one which seems to have been evolved in, and formed the native population of N.E. India when tribalism prevailed throughout the Peninsula and when agriculture was still unknown in the land. Probably the chief factor in producing the racial turmoil in India has been the introduction of the art of agriculture.

In adding this volume to the census report Dr. Hutton has rendered anthropology a great service. Dr. Guha has seized his opportunities with both hands. India is better off than England; India looks at her heads as well as counts them. It may be, in the racial vicissitudes which the distant future will bring forth, that London will stand to Delhi as Delhi now stands to London. In such an event it may be that a Census Commissioner will be appointed for these Islands. In such a case I hope he will remember that it was Sir Herbert Risley who instituted an anthropological survey for India, and so be moved to do the same for the Western Islands of Europe.

ARTHUR KEITH.

**Gurkhas. Handbook for the Indian Army.** By Captain C. J. Morris. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1933; 179 pp., with chart showing terms used in Gurkha relationships, and a skeleton map of Nepal. Price 8s. 9d.

This publication is officially a new edition of Colonel Eden Vansittart's handbook, *Notes on Goorkhas*, of which the first edition appeared in 1890, the second in 1906, the third, revised by Colonel B. U. Nicolay, in 1915, and a reprint of the third edition in 1918. Capt. (now Major) Morris is right in stating that the "present edition has

"been entirely re-written and contains practically none of the original book."

Being one of the handbooks for the Indian Army, the work is intended as a guide to the officers of the Gurkha regiments, especially to recruiting officers. This object necessitated a careful examination of the complicated social organization, of the various tribes of Nepal and of their manners and customs. The ethnological section deals with the general geography and administration of the country and the history of Nepal. In chapters 5-12 the author outlines the history, religion and other characteristic features of the tribes who are enlisted in the British Army: the Thakurs, Chetris, Gurungs, Magars, Limbus, Rais, Sunwars, Tamangs, Lamas or Murmis, followed by a list of their clans (*thars*) and kindreds (*gotras*). An idea of this complicated organization may be gathered from reference to one tribe, the Rais, who have no less than 73 clans, the number of kindreds of each clan varying from one to 133. The Magar clan *Thâpâ* includes no less than 335 kindreds. The various names of clans and kindreds had to be ascertained by personal inquiries from individuals, and it is sometimes difficult to find out whether a name belongs to a clan, or only to a kindred. In other cases units, which were formerly considered to be clans, were proved to be separate tribes or independent groups. In the list of clans it is noted that many of the kindreds are apparently variations of one word. Morris has included in his lists all the various forms that he has come across, except those which are obviously due to defective speech. The author suggests that, possibly, some of the kindreds may have come into being since the book was first written, but it is also possible that these kindreds had merely not been noted in the earlier editions.

Chapter 13 is devoted to those tribes which are not enlisted: the Newars (the aborigines of the valley of Nepal and the creators of the Nepalese art), Dotials, Tharus and Sherpas, i.e., the Bhotiyas of North-eastern Nepal and of Solu Khambu, near the Tibeto-Nepalese frontier.

The valuable appendices include a table of Gurkha relationships, with explanatory notes, a fairly complete bibliography of Nepal, and a coloured skeleton map showing the distribution of tribes.

Although Captain Morris, in his preface, says that he has attempted no more than an outline sketch of the customs of the people, his book, and in particular Chapter 4, is the only detailed and reliable source for the study of the ethnology of Nepal. A large number of the older publications, including Sylvain Lévi's standard work, however important they may be with regard to archæology, geography, etc., have added very little to the ethnology. The book ranks with B. H. Hodgson's 'Essays' and 'Miscellaneous Essays.' The following publications are missing from the bibliography: M. Waddell's *Frog-Worship amongst the Newars* (Indian Antiquary, XXII, 1893; August Conrady's publications: *Das Newârî, Grammatik und Sprachproben, Zeitschrift d. Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, xlv, 1891, pp. 1-35; and *Ein Sanskrit-Newârî-Wörterbuch, ibid.*, xvii, 1893, pp. 539-573, and Heinrich Luders (Professor of Sanskrit in Berlin University) *Die Gurkhas (in Unter fremden Völkern, edited by Professor Wilhelm Doegen, Berlin, 1925, pp. 126-139.)*

Major Morris is at present engaged on another book on the tribal organizations of Nepal and is returning to that country in the near future. Let us hope that his further studies will elucidate the problem of the origin of these tribal organizations which, most probably, were evolved with the development of the dialects, the main basis of which is Tibeto-Burmese. An index, without the *thar* and *gotra* names, would have added considerably to the value of this excellent book. LEONHARD ADAM.