

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chairman: PAUL GEBHARD, Indiana University

THOMAS B. NOBLE, M. D., Indianapolis, was elected chairman for 1954

ABSTRACTS

The C. L. Lewis Stone-Mound and Its Cultural Affiliation. JAMES H. KELLAR.—Stone mounds are one of the most widely distributed archaeological manifestations in the eastern United States, but the problems of excavation and the paucity of associated cultural materials have tended to inhibit investigation or publication of results. Although an Adena-Hopewellian relationship is suggested by previous work, a precise statement of affiliation is not possible. The structural and cultural concatenation of the C. L. Lewis stone-mound located near St. Paul, Shelby County, Indiana, is strongly reminiscent of Adena material and may assist in placing at least a portion of the stone-mound distribution within this cultural and chronological framework.

The Asiatic Relationships of the Deneid Variety of American Indian. GEORG K. NEUMANN, Indiana University.—A search through the Russian scientific literature for descriptions of archaeological and recent Siberian cranial series shed light on the nature of the relationships of a number of varieties of American Indians to Asiatic Mongoloids. In this paper the nearest relatives and possible ancestral groups to the Deneid variety are under consideration. On the basis of cranial morphology the Aleuts, the Haida, a number of Athabascan-speaking tribes of the interior of British Columbia, and the Apache of the Southwest are the most closely related. These groups can be considered as constituting the Deneid variety. A number of Central Asiatic tribes—Kalmucks, Telengetes, Tuvinians, Buriats, Mongols, some of the Tungus, and Gilyaks—make up another variety. This is von Eickstedt's Tungid race, here designated as the Evenkid variety, after the self-appellation of the Tungus. These two varieties, both historically recent, are related to each other in that they can be derived from a common ancestor, the Neolithic Baikal people of which the Lamuts are modern representatives.

Aleutian archaeology in relation to Asia and America. PAUL GEBHARD, Indiana University.—The prehistory of the Aleutian islands is seen to consist of four gradating cultural phases. The earliest seems to have been a core-and-blade tool industry derived from northeastern Asia where it is best known in the mesolithic of Mongolia and Manchuria. The second phase, "original eskimo," represents an arctic-adapted cultural complex which derived from western mesolithic cultures (eg. Maglemose, Kunda, Arctic) and from the upper palaeolithic and neolithic of Siberia. This "original eskimo" spread across Bering straits, and probably also directly by sea, to the Aleutians. After arriving in the New World this generalized

eskimoid culture became quite specialized, and in this more developed form entered the Aleutian islands from Alaska, constituting the third phase. Lastly, a minor fourth phase consists of influences received from western coastal Canada.

[Aleutian artifacts were exhibited.]

The political organization of the Three Fires. J. A. JONES, Indiana University.—Traditionally, the "Three Fires," the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi were one people who migrated west together from the Atlantic coast. The Potawatomi supposedly split off first, and went south, the Ottawa remained around the Straits of Mackinac (the point of dispersal), and the Chippewa continued west to settle around the shores of Lake Superior. Linguistic evidence suggests this may have happened, for Ottawa and Chippewa are very close dialectically, and Potawatomi is not too much different.

There is no evidence, however, in the early documentary sources, to support the thesis that at White contact times anything approaching political confederation between these three groups existed. It is doubtful even that any stable political unit larger than the local group had developed in this area in aboriginal times.

A taxonomic system based upon political organization suggests that the broad classifications of Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi are arbitrary, and probably originate as much in the minds of the classifiers as from the data.