The Negro in the South.

American Negro Origins.

Probably less is known of the life history of the negro than of any other element in our population. As a governmental activity American ethnology has largely confined itself to the Indian, nor has private research done more than touch the surface of negro ethnology. The United States contains the largest body of negroes which has ever lived within historic times outside the African continent, yet the museums of England and Germany contain collections illustrative of native negro life which are incomparably superior to anything we have in this country. Popularly speaking, so little is known by our people of the negro's native life that we have come to think of them as a people without an ancestral history, and such knowledge as the mass of Americans have has been so distorted as to be worth but little. It is based upon study which until very recent times has been largely confined to a search for evidence in support of one side or the other of the ancient and fruitless controversy over the question of the relative positions in the human scale of the Caucasian and the Negro.

There is a great deal of truth in Sir Harry Johnston's remark that "The negro, more than any other human type, has been marked out by his mental and physical characteristics as the servant of other races." He adds that there are exceptions to the rule, and that the least divergence from the negro stock in an upward direction, as in the case of the Gallas and Somalis, is characterized by