

ENGLISH SUMMARY

1028 individuals of six Nepalese tribes have been examined by means of thirteen quantitative anthropometric measures. The study population has been divided into groups according to sex and to ethnic identity; i. e. five tribes of Mongolid and one of Indo-Aryan origin. Finally, the largest group, the *Sherpa*, have been grouped according to their habitat or ecological area into five groups; the other five tribes have been pooled as a contrasting group.

The division according to ethnic identity attempted on one hand to support the thesis of the Tibetan origin of the *Sherpa*, on the other hand the hypothesis of the migration of the *Sherpa* from two distinct areas, a more Western area inhabited by pure Tibetans, and a more Eastern area inhabited by peoples of mixed stock. In order to do this, the similarity of the *Sherpa* with the Nepalese groups who are believed to have come from South-West China are examined.