

earth and sky, the proposed plan of Mr. Jamin is the only logical one; and it deserves, and, coming from such a source, will no doubt receive, the thorough consideration of meteorologists. H. M. PAUL.

Washington, July 22.

INDIAN LANGUAGES OF SOUTH AMERICA.

THE Indian languages of South America certainly deserve to be investigated as thoroughly as any other languages of the globe; but, unfortunately, there are only a few men who make of them an object of research. Abstracts of their grammatic elements have been published, from earlier sources chiefly, by Professor Friedr. Müller in his 'Grundzüge der sprachwissenschaft,' and by Lucien Adam in his 'Examen grammatical de seize langues Américaines' (Paris, 1882). The following treatises, published of late, have come to our notice, and have added considerably to our knowledge of these curious forms of human speech: 1°. Dr. Julius Platzmann's 'Glossar der feuerländischen sprache.' This is an attempt to present the Yahgan dialect of the Fuegian Islands in lexical form, and is chiefly based upon a Fuegian translation of the Gospel of St. Luke. It is preceded by four historical and topographical articles, composed by Dr. Karl Whistling, enlarging upon physical peculiarities of these islands. 2°. The first results of a scientific exploration of the Fuegian Islands by Bove, aided by the government of Italy, have been made public by Giacomo Bove, in his 'I Fuegini, secondo l'ultimo suo viaggio' (Parte prima, Genova, 1883). Extensive vocabularies of the language are published in this volume. 3°. A manuscript of 1818, by John Luceok, containing grammatical elements and a vocabulary of the Tupi language or *lingoa geral* of Brazil, was published at Rio de Janeiro by H. Laemmert & Co., 1882. Curiously enough, the titlepage contains the statement that the material is 'badly arranged.' 4°. Dr. Julius Platzmann's facsimile edition of Havestadt's book on Chilidúgu, which has been previously referred to in *Science*, iii. 550. 5°. A short ethnographic and linguistic article on the Indians of Antioquia and of the Cauca valley, Columbian Union, was published by R. B. White, F. G. S., in the *Journal of the anthropological institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1884. It contains vocabularies of the Noánama and Tadó dialects of the Chocó linguistic family. 6°. In the form of vocabularies of about two hundred terms each, seven Bolivian languages are given by Dr. Edwin R. Heath in the April number (1883) of the *Kansas city review*. These languages are the Canichána, Cayuába, Mobíma, Moseténa, Pacavára, Marópa, and Tacána. The author has given a graphic account of his travels through that deserted and malarial country in the *Transactions of the American geographical society of New York*, 1883. 7°. The foreign and Indian words introduced into the Portuguese of Brazil were collected by Braz da Costa Rabim in the *Rivista trimestral* of Rio Janeiro, vol. xlv., under the title 'Vocabulos indige-

nas e outros introduzidos no uzo vulgar.' 8°. An array of notices of former travellers upon the Aimorés has been gathered by A. H. Keane, professor at the London university, partly anthropological, partly ethnographical, with a short linguistic appendix, and published with his own remarks in the *Journal of the anthropological institute*, November, 1883 (15 pages, 8°), under the superscription 'On the Botocudos.' The tribal name, Aimorés ('vagrant enemies'), is preferable to and much older than Botocudos ('the ones wearing the lip-ornament'), which applies to many other South-American tribes just as well. Another name, the one by which they call themselves, is Nkrä/kmun (or 'men, people').

THE NEW BOGOSLOFF VOLCANO.

THE Grewingk or New Bogosloff volcano, described in *Science* (Jan. 25, 1884) from observations made last fall by Cpts. Hague and Anderson, was visited by the revenue-cutter Thomas Corwin on the 20th of last May. Photographs and reports have been received at the treasury department which add considerably to our knowledge of its condition. It appears that the two peaks are united by a low dry spit, or bar, of sand and gravel which has doubtless been thrown up by the sea; and Ship Rock now rises from this bar nearly midway between the two peaks. Ship Rock, which is a nearly perpendicular pillar, seems, from the position of the barnacles on its base, to have been raised about twenty feet above its old level. The Bogosloff peak seems to have suffered by the commotion attending the eruption, as the Corwin party estimates its height to be about five hundred feet, while observations in 1873 by the U. S. coast survey gave it a height of over eight hundred feet, the upper third of which was composed of extremely acute, inaccessible pinnacles. As this determination was dependent upon a base-line measured by a patent log, which might have been put considerably in error by currents, too much dependence must not be placed on the discrepancy; nevertheless, as older observations all gave a greater height still, it is probable that a considerable change has taken place, if the Corwin's estimate be correct. The Grewingk cone was stated to be eight hundred or a thousand feet in height, and three-quarters of a mile in diameter, by Capt. Hague. It is now reported to be nearly the same height as the Bogosloff peak, or some four hundred and fifty feet in height and half a mile in diameter. Until the details of the survey are received, no exact figures can be given. A convenient landing-place is formed by the bight on either side of the sand-spit above mentioned, where the shore is also bold, there being three fathoms under the stern, with the boat's head on the beach. Farther off, the soundings are regular for a short distance, and then drop to a considerable depth; north from the Grewingk peak, however, no bottom could be found close in with ninety fathoms of line. The observations for position do not seem to have been very good, owing to cloudy weather, but showed a close correspondence with earlier determinations.