

finest specimens of such shrubs to be seen anywhere in the world.

Scattered through the half garden, half park, are artificial ponds, called 'lotus-ponds,' set in a curbing of granite, with islands bordered in like fashion. In the same manner the brooks are confined and fringed, and are spanned by stone bridges at intervals; and yet so well done is the work that it seems in keeping with its surroundings. At all points where a particularly pretty bit of landscape presents itself, is found a summer-house; for a Korean does not combine the idea of exercise with the enjoyment of nature, and prefers to drink in the scenery where at the same time he can sip his tea.

Throw over the greater part of the scene the artistic touch of neglect and incipient ruin, and you have some idea of the grounds of the New Palace of Söul. PERCIVAL LOWELL.

#### THE YUCHI TRIBE OF INDIANS, AND ITS LANGUAGE.

THE ancient domain of the Yuchi or Uchee tribe on both sides of Middle Savannah River probably does not shelter any full-blooded Yuchi man or woman at the present time; but in the remote corner of the Indian Territory, where the tribe is settled now, it tenaciously clings to its ancient customs and habits, its beliefs, dances, and busk festivals. Very few of this aboriginal colony on the southern banks of the Arkansas River can converse intelligibly in English: they do not even mix a great deal with the Creeks, by whom they are surrounded on all sides, but live quietly and happily on their farms. Their myths consider the sun as a female, and the Yuchi as her children. When the last Yuchi dies, the whole world will become extinct also. The moon is regarded as of the male sex, and as the suitor of the sun.

Although the Yuchi tongue differs in its radicals from all American languages heretofore explored, it exhibits some general resemblance in structure to Creek and the other dialects of the Maskoki family. It is possessed of the same alphabetic sounds as this, but shows slight differences in their utterance, and is as prone to nasalize its vowels as Cha'hta and the Sioux dialect of Dakota. Syllables and words close with vowels almost throughout; and the structure of the syllable is, quite as invariably as in Ojibwê, one or two consonants followed by a vowel, diphthongs being rare and always adulterine. The mute consonants do not show the tendency of Creek to

be uttered at the alveolar or front part of the palate. A large number of terms are oxytonized, that is, emphasized on their last syllable; but the Hottentot clucks, which have been attributed to the Yuchi language, do not exist in it. None of the nouns inflect for case. The adjective does not inflect for number; but the substantive nouns assume the ending *ha*, which I suppose to be abbreviated from *wahdle* ('many'), a term which also appears as *hdle*. The decimal system forms the base of the numeral series, and not the quinary, which is the most frequent one in America and in other parts of the world. The existence of a dual generally shows that a language has remained in a highly archaic state; but in Yuchi no trace could be discovered of it, neither in the noun or pronoun, nor in the verb, although the Maskoki dialects possess it in the latter. The verb has a personal and temporal inflection, but is not by any means so rich in tense forms as Creek, Cha'hta, or Hitchiti. But like these, it reduplicates the second syllable of the verbal base to form iterative, frequentative, and distributive forms of conjugation. In the third person of the pronoun, distinction is made not only between male and female, but also between races: since 'they,' when referring to whites or negroes of both sexes, is expressed by *lewénu*; when referring to Indians, by *lehénu*. 'She,' when pointing to an Indian woman not related to the one speaking, is rendered by *léno*; when related to him, by *lesséno*. All these gender distinctions are also expressed in the intransitive verb.

The gentes of the Yuchi people are identical with those of the Creeks and Seminoles, and, like the Náktche gentes, are evidently borrowed from them. The descent is therefore also in the maternal line. ALBERT S. GATSCHET.

#### RECENT INVESTIGATIONS UPON CHOLERA.

THE cessation of the cholera epidemic in Europe, since the advent of cold weather, has prevented the occurrence of much of interest in this direction since our last notice of the subject in *Science*. The English cholera commission, a note of whose labors was made some weeks ago (vol. v. p. 41), has returned, and has made a full report of its labors, which seem to contradict Koch's assertions in every vital point. We had hoped to receive the printed report before this, but have failed to do so as yet.

The most interesting work upon the comma bacillus of cholera, recently published, is that of Johnne (*Zeitschr. f. thiermed.*, xi. 87), in which he gives the methods of culture, staining, and preparation of the