the *pros* are Adams, Struve, and Christie; among the *cons*, Newcomb, Foerster, and Auwers.

W. C. W.

THE NATIVES OF AMERICA.[1]

THE native population (before the changes wrought by the European conquest) of the great continent of America, excluding the Eskimo, present, considering the vast extent of the country they inhabit, and the great differences of climate and other surrounding conditions, a remarkable similarity of essential characters, with much diversity of detail.

The construction of the numerous American languages, of which as many as twelve hundred have been distinguished, is said to point to unity of origin; as, though widely different in many respects, they are all, or nearly all, constructed on the same general grammatical principle, — that called polysynthesis, which differs from that of the languages of any of the old-world nations. The mental characteristics of all the American tribes have much that is in common; and the very different stages of culture to which they had attained at the time of the conquest, as that of the Incas and Aztecs, and the hunting and fishing tribes of the north and south, which have been quoted as evidence of diversities of race, were not greater than those between different nations of Europe — as Gauls and Germans on one hand, and Greeks and Romans on the other — in the time of Julius Caesar. Yet all these were Aryans; and, in treating the Americans as one race, it is not intended that they are more closely allied than the different Aryan people of Europe and Asia. The best argument that can be used for the unity of the American race, using the word in a broad sense, is the great difficulty of forming any natural divisions founded upon physical characters. The important character of the hair does not differ throughout the whole continent. It is always straight and lank, long, and abundant on the scalp, but sparse elsewhere. The color of the skin is practically uniform, notwithstanding the enormous differences of climate under which many members of the group exist. In the features and cranium certain special modifications prevail in different districts, but the same forms appear at widely separated parts of the continent. I have examined skulls from Vancouver's Island, from Peru, and from Patagonia, which were almost undistinguishable from one another.

Naturalists who have admitted but three primary types of the human species have always found a difficulty with the Americans, hesitating between placing them with the Mongolian or so-called 'yellow' races, or elevating them to the rank of a primary group. Cuvier does not seem to have been able to settle this point to his own satisfaction, and leaves it an open question. Although the large majority of Americans have in the special form of the nasal bones, leading to the characteristic high bridge of the nose of the living face, in the well-developed superciliary ridge and retreating forehead, characters which distinguish them from the typical Asiatic Mongol, in many other respects they resemble them so much, that, although admitting the difficulties of the case, I am inclined to include them as aberrant members of the Mongolian type. It is, however, quite open to any one adopting the negro, Mongolian, and Caucasian as primary divisions, to place the American apart as a fourth.

Now that the high antiquity of man in America, perhaps as high as that which he has in Europe, has been discovered, the puzzling problem, from which part of the old world the people of America have sprung, has lost its significance. It is quite as likely that the people of Asia may have been derived from America, as the reverse. However this may be, the population of America had been, before the time of Columbus, practically isolated from the rest of the world, except at the extreme north. Such visits as those of the early Norsemen to the coasts of Greenland, Labrador, and Nova Scotia, or the possible accidental stranding of a canoe containing survivors of a voyage across the Pacific or the Atlantic, can have no appreciable effect upon the characteristics of the people. It is difficult, therefore, to look upon the anomalous and special characters of the American people as the effects of crossing, as was suggested in the case of the Australians, — a consideration which gives more weight to the view of treating them as a distinct primary division.

[1] Extract from the address of Prof. W. H. FLOWER as president of the Anthropological institute of Great Britain.

CLAUS'S TEXT-BOOK OF ZOÖLOGY.

IT is an interesting and sad fact that England and America have not as yet produced one really good manual of zoölogy, while Germany has at least two of the first order. One of these, Professor Claus's 'Grundzüge der zoologie,' has reached its fourth edition, with every probability that a fifth will soon follow. The last edition contains about fourteen hundred pages. Its large size makes it unwieldy for the beginner, and, moreover, there are no figures. By shortening especially the descriptions of orders and families, and some further condensation, the book was reduced to about eight hundred pages, and space saved for about the same number of figures. The new book thus formed is the 'Lehrbuch der zoologie,' translated under the above title. In all Professor Claus's writings, one cannot fail to notice his judicial fairness. The discussion of Darwinism (vol. i. pp. 139–179) is especially remarkable for its impartiality and candor, as well as its clearness and condensation. The arrangement of material in the general part, and the descriptions of the types, show the comprehensiveness of his mind and the extensiveness of his knowledge, while his exact-

Elementary text-book of zoölogy. By Dr. C. CLAUS and ADAM SEDGWICK, with the assistance of F. G. HEATHCOTE. 2 vols. New York, *Macmillan*, 1885. 8°.