

exception to these figures. He thinks that a very large number of dogs that have bitten people, and supposed to be rabid, were not rabid, and points out several other possible errors in Pasteur's deductions.

THE UNSEEMLY WRANGLE that has been caused by the *Quarterly review* article on Mr. Edward Gosse has greatly excited the literary men at the universities. Whatever be the merits of the case, from this distance we can only see that the whole proceeding is derogatory to the dignity of men of literary reputation and culture. Journalistic quarrels are usually of no benefit and questionable taste, but it would be bad indeed if the outcome of this one should be, as one English critic insinuates, to prove that at one university is a professor who is not a scholar, and at the other, one who is not a gentleman.

THE AMERICANISTS.

THE sixth session of the Congress international des Americanists was held in September last at Turin. It may not be amiss to say that the previous meetings were held at Nancy (1873), Luxemburg (1877), Brussels (1879), Madrid (1881), and Copenhagen (1883). The sixth session would have been held last year had not the cholera prevented. The congress held its meetings in the old chamber in the Carignan palace, where the deputies of the Sardinian kingdom held their meeting, while the capital of that kingdom remained at Turin. M. Desiré Charnay opened the real business of the meeting with an address complaining that too little attention was given in Europe to the study of American history, and too much to that of the east. "Why," said he, "men care more for the discovery of a finger of Venus or a toe of Mercury than they do for the finding of a whole city in America." He instanced especially the apathy with which Maudslay's work was received in England, saying that it took the directors of the Kensington museum three months to make up their minds as to whether they would accept a monolith as a gift.

The first discussion arose on a paper read by M. Guido Cora on the Zeni Brothers. The speaker declared that the well-known map which goes under the name of the Zeni map was the best authority in the case. He recognized the Faroe Islands in Frislanda; Iceland in Islanda; Greenland in Engronelant; and portions of North America in Estotiland and Drogeo. M. Beauvois thought that the Zeni explored Newfoundland, while M. V. Schmidt argued that Engronelant

corresponded to the modern Angramanlant and Norway.

M. Jimenez followed with a very long and detailed communication on the migrations of the Carib race. In his opinion, that movement was by the Amazon and Orinoco rivers. Then M. le Baron de Baye presented a note by the Marquis of Monclar with regard to a trepanned skull from the upper basin of the Amazon, and M. Pigorini a memoir of M. Strobel upon picture-writing of South America. M. Grossi finally read a paper upon coins of the old and new worlds.

The next day M. Schmidt presented, in behalf of Dr. H. Rink, a paper describing the Eskimo tribes of the extreme west and east. He gave very detailed statements of the manners, customs, houses, dress, social order, myths, and traditions of those tribes. Dr. Rink agrees with Captain Hohn, that the Eskimos have occupied the coasts of Greenland on all sides.

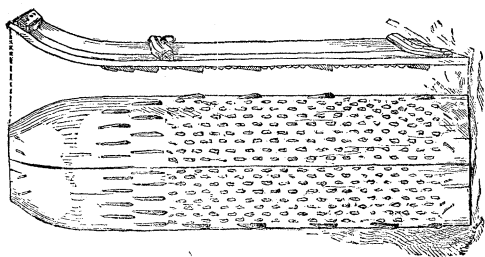
A description, purporting to have come from Mr. A. S. Gatschet of the ethnological bureau at Washington, of the Maya dictionary, was then read. Without doubt it is of the greatest importance in the study of this ancient language, and the deciphering of the old inscriptions in that language. The dictionary, or rather vocabulary, forms part of the Carter-Brown library in Providence. The dictionary is in two parts, each forming a small quarto volume. Part i. contains the Maya-Spanish part; part ii., the Spanish-Maya part. It was probably composed between 1590 and 1600. It is named after the monastery where the author lived, Motul. The author is unknown, and the copy in question is not the original manuscript, but a copy. According to a somewhat minute calculation, it was estimated that the volume contained about 15,400 terms. Others have thought the number higher. It gives us the Maya tongue as it existed at the time or shortly after the conquest. A vote was passed asking the government of the United States to publish the dictionary at its own expense. The congress soon after adjourned, after providing for another meeting at Berlin in 1888.

ARCHEOLOGICAL ENIGMAS.

THE meeting of the Anthropological society of Washington on Nov. 16 was devoted to the reading of two papers bearing on the antiquity of man in America. Mr. G. K. Gilbert, chief geologist of the U. S. geological survey, described minutely the finding of an ancient hearth on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, at the bottom of a well about thirty feet deep. The formation at the base of which the hearth was discovered is one of a

series of shore-deposits left by the receding ice of the last glacial epoch. Mr. Gilbert described minutely the manner in which these old beaches were built up by moving gravel one after another by a series of inverted imbrications or overlappings, and relegated the hearth in question to one of the first of them laid down in this particular series, roughly estimating the time at about seven thousand years ago.

Mr. Gilbert was followed by Mr. W. J. McGee, who described the finding of an obsidian spear-head or knife, four inches long and beautifully chipped, in Walker River Cañon, Nevada. The greatest care was taken in removing this find, and all the intelligent forethought which a trained geologist could exercise was used to mark the exact conditions of the case. Not the slightest evidence of intrusive burial or bank veneering appeared, and Mr. McGee was convinced that the weapon was deposited when the stratum contain-



THRESHING-SLEDGE.

ing it was laid down, the time being approximately that of Mr. Gilbert's find.

Mr. John Murdoch reported at the same meeting the discovery of a pair of wooden snow-goggles, like those now used by Eskimo to protect the eyes from the glare of the sun and driving snow, in a shaft which his party dug at the depth of twenty-seven feet below the surface. Mr. Murdoch's discovery made an interesting connecting link in the interpretation of Mr. Gilbert's hearth.

Two of these finds were neolithic of the most advanced type, and located at the close of the last glacial epoch: they certainly start ten times more questions than they answer.

The national museum has lately acquired two specimens from different parts of the world, which introduce an element of confusion into archeological speculations. Both of them represent the use of stone implements of the very rudest type by peoples above savagery.

One of these specimens is a *tribulum*, or threshing-sledge, from Tunis. It is a low sledge or drag made of two planks, seventy inches long, nineteen inches wide, and ten inches thick, turned up

slightly at the front, and narrowed like a square-toed shoe. Three stout battens across the upper side are securely nailed down. On the under side, just where the flat portion commences, are seventeen strips of iron, like dull knife-blades, arranged in two rows quincuncially. Along each margin of the under side are four similar dull blades. All the remainder of the bottom is occupied with sixteen rows of stone teeth, sixteen in a row, arranged quincuncially and projecting about an inch. These teeth are nothing but bits of jagged quartz, and, if picked up independently of their environment, would hardly be regarded as wrought by human hands.

The other 'paleolithic' civilized implement is a Spanish *Rallador*, or grater, from British Honduras. It consists of a plank of hard wood eighteen inches long and ten inches wide, into which have been driven nearly two thousand bits of quartz no larger than tiny arrow-heads, only they are not chipped in the least, and are less shapely.

With such material as the Gilbert hearth, the McGee spear-head, the Murdoch spectacles, the Tunis *tribulum*, and the Honduras grater accumulating around us every day, the question does not seem to be as to the antiquity of man, but whether or not archeology will help us in ascertaining his pristine condition on this continent. Dismissing the *tribulum* (the stone furniture of one of them would stock an African paleolithic cabinet), we have evidence which would satisfy some minds that at the end of the glacial epoch there lived men who built fires, chipped obsidian most beautifully, and wore snow-goggles, while in the nineteenth century A.D. men were still in the lowest story of the stone period.

O. T. MASON.

THE HEALTH OF NEW YORK DURING OCTOBER.

THE health department estimates that on the 1st of October the population of the city of New York was 1,449,958. Of this number, 2,977 died during the month, which was an increase of 210 as compared with September: 1,275 of these deaths occurred among children under five years of age. There was a marked reduction of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases. The maximum mortality from this cause was in the month of July, when no less than 1,882 deaths took place; in August this was reduced to 705; in September, to 479; and in October, to 234, only about one-sixth the mortality of July. Fifty-eight more deaths are chargeable to consumption than in the preceding month, although the average for October is about that of other months of the year. But 18 persons died from scarlet-fever, — a small