

of beams, over which are spread two covers of seal-skin, the intermediate space being filled with shrubs. In referring to Sutherland's measurements of the Eskimos of Cumberland Sound, Murdoch remarks that they may have been half-breeds. Sutherland visited the Sound only a few years after its discovery; and there were no grown-up half-breeds there at that time, though they form a large portion of the population nowadays. The tribes of that district are in the habit of cooking the food for their regular meals; but besides this, they eat large quantities of raw and frozen meat. They indulge in drinking oil as little as any other tribe. Murdoch remarks rightly that it is far too valuable to waste in this way, as it is the only and indispensable fuel.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE board of oriental studies at Oxford has added Chinese and Burmese to the list of languages which may be offered in the examination.

— Prof. Edward A. Freeman has been obliged by ill health, the result of overwork, to obtain leave of absence from Oxford for a time. He is now in Sicily.

— The report of the Swiss commission for the reform of gymnasial instruction has just been issued. The commission recommend that the teaching of Latin shall begin in the fifth class, and shall be continued, for five hours weekly, up to the highest class; that instruction in Greek shall depend upon the expressed desire of parents or guardians, and shall begin in the fourth class; and that all scholars who do not learn Greek shall learn either English or Italian. Two spare hours gained by pupils in English or Italian are to be spent in the study of natural science and mathematics.

— The *Educational times* remarks that the event of the month — January — has been the visit of the French teachers to Oxford — the members of the Société nationale des professeurs de Français en Angleterre — for the holding of their sixth annual congress. They lunched at different colleges, and assembled thereafter in Balliol hall, where they were received in a most eloquent speech by Dr. Jowett. That master spoke highly of the value of modern languages and the promotion of their study in England; but he loves his Greek better. "Modern languages in Oxford," he said, "must serve the higher purposes of education: therefore they must not drive out the ancient, and, above all, Greek, which, more than any other ancient language, seems to be the original source of our literature and civilization."

Other speeches were made, and the following excellent resolutions were carried: "1. That the Society of French masters earnestly desires to see established at Oxford a school of modern languages, on such a basis as will encourage the study of French literature, and of the French language as a living tongue; 2. That the society desires that the system of set books in the local examinations of Oxford and Cambridge be abolished, and that certificates be awarded on translation at sight, composition, grammar, and *viva voce*." Later, the members dined together at Oriel, where they were entertained by the provost and a committee of reception. Toasts and more speeches followed dinner; Dr. Beljame, the representative of the French minister of public instruction, expressing an eloquent hope that the old friendly intercourse between French and English universities would be renewed. Altogether, the Oxford meeting was a very pleasant success, enjoyable, and of much benefit to all concerned.

— The English educational papers are bewailing the appointment of Sir William Hart Dyke to succeed Sir Henry Holland as vice-president of the council of education.

— Hawaii is not unprovided with educational facilities. The education act compels the attendance at school of all children between the ages of six and fifteen. The government supports free public schools out of a tax of two dollars per head, paid by every male inhabitant of the kingdom between the ages of twenty and sixty years. An inspector-general is at the head of the school department, but no person in holy orders or minister of religion is eligible to fill the office.

— An association for promoting the university education of teachers, consisting, in the first place, of the masters of English elementary schools who spent some weeks at Oxford last summer, has been inaugurated in London. As its first act, the association has appealed to the education department to recognize the university degree as equivalent to a certificate, "provided the universities co-operate by making provision for training in teaching."

— Of late the Prussian minister of education has had several applications made to him to admit women as students at the universities. His reply is, that women are not to be admitted as regular students at any Prussian university, nor at any of the medical schools.

— Cornelius Nepos is a particularly good author for beginners in Latin to take up, because his style is easy and perspicuous, and his subject-matter, when trustworthy, is of historical interest. The

little volume of selections from Nepos that has recently appeared in Macmillan's series of elementary classics is at once the handiest and best-prepared edition for the use of beginners that we remember to have seen. It is edited by G. S. Farnell, M.A., who has prefixed a brief introduction, and appended some helpful notes and a vocabulary. The passages for Latin composition are a good feature, and should materially aid the teacher.

—The programme for the annual meeting of the superintendents of schools, concluded yesterday at Washington, was a comprehensive and attractive one. The subjects of discussion, and the speakers invited to discuss them, were as follows: 'Public education on the Pacific coast,' Superintendents Campbell of Oakland (Cal.), Waterman of Stockton (Cal.), and Fay of Eureka (Nev.); 'A teacher's certificate, county, city, state, and national,' Dr. A. J. Rickoff of Yonkers, J. P. Wickersham of Lancaster (Penn.), Dr. W. A. Mowry of Boston, Superintendent Lovett of Huntsville (Ala.), W. W. Jones of Lincoln (Neb.), and Superintendent Hard of Gallipolis (O.); 'Civil service and public schools,' L. D. Brown of Columbus (O.), Superintendent Manley of Galion (O.), B. L. Butcher of Beverly (W.Va.), Superintendents Morgan of West Virginia, Barringer of Newark (N.J.), Littlefield of Newport (R.I.), and Ballard of Columbus (O.); 'Powers and duties of officers and teachers,' Superintendents Marble of Worcester (Mass.), Cornell of Denver, Hinsdale of Cleveland, Wise of Baltimore, Latham of Danville (Ill.), Green of Long Branch (N.J.), and W. E. Sheldon of Boston; 'The best system of county and city school supervision,' Superintendents Holcombe of Indiana, Greenwood of Kansas City, Johnson of Columbia (S.C.), Sabin of Clinton (Io.), Paine of Tennessee, Spear of Kansas, and Macdonald of Topeka; 'The best system of state school supervision,' Superintendents Easton of Louisiana, Edwards of Illinois, Preston of Mississippi, Pickett of Kentucky, Lawhead of Kansas, Palmer of Alabama, Buchanan of Virginia, and Tomlinson of Winston (N.C.); 'The relation of our public schools to the general government,' Congressman McKinley of Ohio, A. J. Michael of Cleveland, and Superintendents Newell of Maryland and Cooper of Texas.

—Writing from Paris, the *Journal of education's* correspondent mentions two subjects of general educational interest. The first is, that there is at present a perfect glut of teachers in the scholastic market in France. The impetus given by the republican government to education has caused such an influx of young men and young

women to the profession, that more than twenty thousand who have gone through the necessary training and passed the examinations cannot find places. Most of these would, under ordinary circumstances, not have become civil-servants; and the increase in the number of these, in a country where the true function of the state is considered by too many to be that of providing posts for its citizens, is a very serious matter. The second topic of interest is that the Chev  method of singing at sight is gaining ground in France, as well as in Belgium and Holland. Although not so thorough in fundamental principles as the tonic sol-fa method, which has done such a vast deal for singing in England, this method stands next in order of merit. The degrees of the scale are indicated by figures, instead of by letters as in tonic sol-fa. He adds that it is a curious fact that Germany, where rational and irrational methods on every possible subject are being daily elaborated with exemplary care and Teutonic patience, still plods on with the old method, which has but one point in its favor compared with the above-named; namely, that it is the only possible method, practically speaking, for instrumental music. But as a means of affording a ready insight into the principles of modern music, it can hardly be called a method at all.

—The *Athenaeum* reports that a movement in favor of university extension, somewhat after the lines of Professor Stuart's scheme, which Cambridge has worked with signal success, is being proposed in Scotland. The University of Glasgow is considering the subject, and St. Andrews has formed a committee which is to inquire into the need for instruction and its capability of supplying it. Several of the Edinburgh professors have signed a rather vague fly-sheet that has been put in circulation; but no general conclusion has been reached, and it is uncertain whether the universities will divide the work among them, each acting separately, or whether there will be a common organization. In fact, the question in Scotland takes a different form from what it does in England. England had a large body of comparatively idle fellows: Scotland has none. When Professor Stuart began his work, there were large districts in England untouched by university influence: there is almost no such district in Scotland. The number of undergraduates at Oxford and Cambridge is small in proportion to the population: the number of Scottish students is very large. These and other circumstances will compel the Scottish universities to handle the question in a way somewhat different from that pursued by Professor Stuart.