

is an impossibility; but we may have a museum of arts, including the arts industrial and aesthetic. But, while such a museum might be possible, it is impracticable, for a collection of the arts of all peoples of all times would be of such magnitude that it could not properly be made and preserved within practical conditions of economy. That which the great institutions of the world really attempt is an archeological museum,—a museum of the antiquities of the higher races, and of the past and present of the lower races. In the administration of such a museum it may be considered best to segregate a part thereof for exhibition, as indicated in a previous part of this letter; but their arrangement by tribes on ethnic characteristics of any kind is an impossibility. Their arrangement by geographic districts is possible, but the lessons taught thereby are not of prime importance, and the cost of such an exhibition would be excessively expensive,—quite out of proportion to the value of the results. The scientific or technologic classification is all that remains, and this has yet to be developed.

Will the editor of *Science* indulge me in one more remark, as a corollary to what I have said?

There is a science of anthropology, composed of subsidiary sciences, which I group as follows: the biology of man, which is the study of the animal man, and may be considered as belonging to biology proper, or anthropology; there is a science of psychology, which is a part of anthropology; there is a science of technology, which includes all the arts of mankind; there is a science of sociology, which includes all the institutions of mankind; there is a science of philology, which includes the languages of mankind; and there is a science of philosophy, which includes the opinions of mankind; but there is no science of ethnology, for the attempt to classify mankind in groups has failed on every hand. Perhaps the most distinctive group of men yet discovered in the world are the Eskimos. They have in a general way physical characteristics which separate them from other peoples, but these distinctions fade out on the western coast of America and eastern coast of Asia. They have arts peculiar to an arctic habitat, but their arts are not exclusively their own. Their institutions are yet practically unknown. Their opinions, as represented in their mythologies, are imperfectly known, but they yet furnish no characteristics by which they can be segregated from many other peoples; and Mr. Dall has shown that their languages are not wholly unconnected with other languages of the north. But when the attempt is made to set up other races in the world, it wholly fails. The unity of mankind is the greatest induction of anthropology.

J. W. POWELL.

Washington, June 11.

I have to say a few words in reply to Major Powell's criticism of my letter in *Science* of May 20. It will be seen that in regard to several points which are discussed in my letter of June 17, and Major Powell's letter of to-day, there is no difference of opinion between Major Powell and myself, as his remarks would imply.

Major Powell infers that my remarks refer to archeological collections of pre-Columbian peoples. If he will kindly look at the contents of my two letters, he will see that no mention has been made of such collections, but that we discussed the general question of studying and arranging ethnological ma-

terial. The mere fact that we do not know to which tribes archeological specimens belong excludes them from our discussion, and demands a different kind of treatment. I fully agree with Major Powell's remarks on this subject, but venture to say that they do not belong to the question at issue.

A few words more on Major Powell's remarks on the classification of tribes and the alleged impossibility of arranging a tribal museum. The problem has been solved by numerous museums, even much larger than the national museum. The ideal plan of their arrangement is to exhibit a full set of a representative of an ethnical group, and to show slight peculiarities in small special sets. Experience shows that this can be done with collections from all parts of the world without over-burdening the collection with duplicates, and without making artificial classifications—only by grouping the tribes according to ethnic similarities. Such groups are not at all intended to be classifications, as Major Powell infers in his remarks on this subject. The principal difference between the plan advocated by Major Powell and adopted by Professor Mason, and that of other museums, is, that the latter exhibit the individual phenomenon, while the former make classifications that are not founded on the phenomenon, but in the mind of the student.

DR. FRANZ BOAS.

New York, June 18.

#### Small-pox hospitals.

In your issue of the 20th of May I notice a statement concerning the peculiar effect of small-pox in the vicinity of hospitals for that disease. Some years ago, small-pox was local here, and upon the termination of the case the bedding was burned in the yard of the premises; and I am informed, that, in the direction in which the smoke was driven by the wind, several cases of small-pox developed, while the surrounding neighborhood was otherwise free from it.

Among our acclimated people this disease is more dreaded than yellow-fever. The people here are opposed to burning bedding of yellow-fever patients, but favor burying or sinking in the channel. Our atmosphere never being purified by frost, our reliance must be upon the winds to purify and disinfect. Here every thing rapidly decays, and passes away into the atmosphere.

HORATIO CRAIN.

Key West, June 7.

#### The scientific swindler again.

About six weeks ago a delightfully intelligent and amiable deaf-and-dumb man appeared in Pottsville, and was entertained hospitably by Mr. Bard Wells, late of the geological survey of Pennsylvania, to whom he gave some valuable books, and from whom he took some, also a compass. He left Pottsville suddenly without paying his hotel-bill.

About two weeks afterward he called at the office of the survey, in Philadelphia, after office-hours, and represented himself to the janitress as an assistant on the survey, sent by the assistant in charge of the office to get certain survey reports. Having no written order to show, he was refused admittance, and went away very angry.

I see that he has turned up at Syracuse. It is astonishing that the fellow can have managed to escape capture so long.

J. P. LESLEY.