

have a beneficial influence. Mr. Mills sees, as most of us do, the evils attendant on caucuses and on party management generally, but he does not suggest any thing new in the way of remedy. He has also some good remarks on the folly of mere office-seeking and the nobleness of disinterested statesmanship. We are sorry to have to add that the typography of the book is very bad indeed. Such misspellings as 'monopolies,' 'forsee,' 'weich' for 'which,' and 'ptofit' for 'profit,' are frequent. On p. 159 there are three words misspelled; and on p. 73 is the following sentence: "A party as a party cannot refuse to meet an issue *squarly* at the ballot box, and then as a party *squarly* meet it anywhere else." Surely American typography can do better than that.

Grundriss der Psychologie. Von Dr. F. WOLLNY. Leipzig, Thomas. 8°.

IT is difficult to classify this pamphlet. It is not an elementary text-book, because it lacks all system, and treats special topics. It is not a technical contribution, for it is full of commonplaces, and has no definite end in view. Perhaps it is best to regard it as an expression of the author's interests, and as such it has little interest. The author declares his atheistic tendencies, and introduces much not very relevant ethical matter. After discussing in a very unsystematic and eclectic manner the elementary mental powers, — sensation, will, perception, memory, — both separately and in combined action, he adds a few short chapters on sleep and dreams, on insanity, on animal mind, and on alleged higher psychic powers. About the only noteworthy passages are to be found in the preface and in the appendix. The former announces that the author intends to keep psychology and physiology distinct, and has no sympathy with tedious and meaningless psychophysical experiments. As a matter of fact, the topics treated often demand a physiological treatment, and many of the chapters begin with the statement of such a fact. Instead of taking it from a physiological text-book, the author records it as his own experience. It is difficult to take his objections seriously. The appendix contains a great 'discovery.' The human body is susceptible to magnetic influence. Furthermore, if one person in the neighborhood of a magnet concentrates his attention upon another, a subtle connection between the two is made, and one can read the thoughts of the other without sensory transfer. To this so-called 'fact' are added a host of fanciful notions with much mysticism. It is queer in what various forms these unscientific notions arise. Finally, the book is written in orthodox German style, — ponderous, 'bagged' sentences and involved constructions.

Italian Grammar. By C. H. GRANDGENT. Boston, Heath. 12°.

IN this volume the author, who is tutor in modern languages in Harvard University, has attempted, and very successfully we think, to put into convenient form and small compass sufficient of the grammar of the Italian language to meet the requirements of the ordinary student. The book, though representing Italian as at present spoken and written, gives as many obsolete forms as may be necessary for a student of the Italian classics. It is prepared specially for use in colleges, but it will prove serviceable to any student familiar with English grammar.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A PARTY of forty engineers and their assistants, about a hundred and fifty in all, will leave this city about the end of this month for Nicaragua, to locate the exact route of the inter-oceanic canal, and to obtain data from which to make accurate estimates as to the cost of the work. The expedition will be in charge of Engineer Perry, and will be joined a few weeks later by Chief-Engineer Menocal.

— A recent public test of the consolidated railway, telegraph system of train-telegraphy, made on the Lehigh Valley Railroad, gave very satisfactory results. On a train moving sixty miles an hour, messages were sent and received to and from other trains on the road, and communication was had with this city and with different stations on the line.

— We have received from the Clarendon Press the first number of *Annals of Botany*, edited by Isaac Bayley Balfour, Sydney How-

ard Vines, and William Gilson Farlow, assisted by other botanists. The contents are, 'On Some Points in the Histology and Physiology of the Fruits and Seeds of *Rhamnus*,' by H. Marshall Ward; 'On the Structure of the Mucilage-secreting Cells of *Blechnum occidentale*, L., and *Osmunda regalis*, L.,' by W. Gardiner and Tokutaro Ito; 'On Laticiferous Tissue in the Pith of *Manihot Glaziovii*, and on the Presence of Nuclei in this Tissue,' by Agnes Calvert and L. A. Boodle; 'Anomalous Thickening in the Roots of *Cycas Seemannii*, Al. Braun,' by W. H. Gregg; notes; review of Sachs's 'Physiology of Plants;' and record of current literature.

— The fifth biennial report of the Kansas State Historical Society shows the work of the society for the two years ending Jan. 18, 1887. The society was then eleven years old. The primary object of the society is that of collecting, arranging, and cataloguing a library of the materials of Kansas history, including books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, pictures, and, in short, every thing which contains information concerning and going to illustrate the history of Kansas. Incidentally, so interwoven has been the history of Kansas with that of the whole country, and so much has it enlisted a general interest, its library has come to be the recipient, largely by gift, of not only the materials of the history, but of every thing of a literary and scientific character relating to all parts of the country. The total of the library in January last was, of bound volumes, 8,352; unbound volumes, 21,103; bound newspaper files and volumes of periodicals, 5,986; making the total of the library, 35,441. Its yearly accession of the files of local newspapers is no doubt greater than that of any other library in the country. The regular issues of all the local newspapers, daily and weekly, published in every county in Kansas, are freely given the society by the publishers, and are bound, and placed on the shelves of the library. Thus is being preserved the best of all materials of the history of every town and neighborhood in the State. The report, among other lists and tables, contains a list of the newspapers at the present time published in Kansas; viz., 72 dailies, 12 semi-weeklies, 722 weeklies, 38 monthlies, 1 semi-monthly, 1 bi-monthly, 4 quarterlies, and 2 occasionals, numbering 852 in all. The library is the property of the State, and is kept in rooms in the State Capitol.

— Among the latest issues of the Clarendon Press (Macmillan & Co.) is a batch of classical books that are worthy of careful examination. The list includes the 'Phormio' of Terence, Cicero's Catilinarian orations, 'The Knights' of Aristophanes, the 'Eclogues' of Vergil, the first book of Tacitus' 'Annals,' and, in the Elementary Classics Series, the seventh book of Cæsar's 'Commentaries.' They are all gotten up in that attractive and elegant way that characterizes the Macmillans' work. Particular attention is due, perhaps, to Dr. Merry's careful and accurate edition of the 'Knights' of Aristophanes. Both introduction and notes are extremely well done.

— A series of lectures (twenty to twenty-four in number) will be given at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, by Professor Whitney, on geographical methods and results. The course will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 3 P.M. Admission free; but tickets must be obtained of the lecturer, by application through the mail or in person; and in their distribution, since the accommodation is limited, preference will be given to teachers, for whom the course is specially intended.

— The frequently observed longevity of eminent English scientists is again shown in the high ages at which recently deceased fellows of the Royal Society have died. Of fourteen fellows, six lived to more than eighty years, and only one was under sixty at the time of his death. The average age at death of the fourteen is no less than seventy-five years.

— Oscar Harger, for eighteen years the chief assistant of Prof. O. C. Marsh, died in New Haven, Nov. 6. Mr. Harger was born at Oxford, Conn., and was graduated from Yale College in the class of '68. He was one of the high-stand members of his class, and was looked upon at graduation as a young man of exceeding great promise. When he graduated, his health had been considerably impaired in consequence of hard study and application to literary and other work, which he did in order to secure money to pay his expenses through college. In 1870 Mr. Harger became assistant

instructor in geology at Yale, and rapidly became known among literary men as a logical thinker and superior instructor. He acquired a knowledge of local botany that was considerably more extensive than was possessed by any other scientist in the city or state. Professor Marsh valued his assistant very highly, and the two geological works of which Professor Marsh is the author were given to the printers in Mr. Harger's handwriting, having been very largely prepared by him under the immediate direction of the professor. In 1878 Mr. Harger married Miss Jessie Craig, sister of James R. and Alexander Craig of New Haven. Mrs. Harger survives him, but he leaves no children.

— Mr. P. W. M. Trap of Leyden is about to issue the first number of the *Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie*, which will be edited by Dr. J. D. E. Schmelz, curator of the National Ethnographical Museum at Leyden. The principal object of the new journal is the study of 'descriptive ethnology;' i.e., of the material, form, method of manufacture, and use of objects made by peoples still extant. It will be illustrated by color-plates, a magnificent sample of which accompanies the publisher's announcement.

— In *Science* of Nov. 4, p. 226, 23d line of 'Search for Gems and Precious Stones,' '.792074' should read '.7920792.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

. The attention of scientific men is called to the advantages of the correspondence columns of *SCIENCE* for placing promptly on record brief preliminary notices of their investigations. Twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent on request.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.

Cheyenne.

YOUR espousal of the true pronunciation of 'Arkansaw' should give a shock to New England self-conceit, unaware that the New England type of mind is essentially shallow.

In regard to the name 'Cheyenne.' In youth I was able to speak enough Sioux to trade with the Indians. The French trappers told me that the Sioux say that the first Cheyennes they ever saw had their thighs painted red, and they (Sioux) remarked to them, *Shah-ee-ai-ee-loo-hah*, which means, 'You have painted yourselves red.' They call the Cheyennes '*Shy-ai-ee-lah*,' an abbreviation of the above sentence. *Shah-shah* means 'red;' and *loo-yah*, 'you have.' The change to 'Cheyenne' might easily occur in the transfer from Indian to white, and the first attempt to spell it by Frenchmen would of course be with *ch* instead of *sh*. The 'squaw-men,' trappers and hunters, do not believe it has any connection with the French word *chien*, notwithstanding the name of the Cheyennes in the intertribal sign-language is 'wolf-ears made with forefingers and thumbs at sides of head.'

GEO. WILSON.

Lexington, Mo., Nov. 5.

The American Physique.

LAST spring I received a letter from an English gentleman who is interested in anthropology and biology, asking me if there were any facts to sustain the impression abroad that the white man is deteriorating in size, weight, and condition in the United States. I had no positive information of my own to give, and I could only refer my correspondent to the data of the measurement of soldiers, and to some other investigations of less importance.

It occurred to me, however, that, since by far the greater part of the men of this country are clad in ready-made clothing, the experience of the clothiers might be valuable, and that, from their figures of the average sizes of the garments prepared by them for men's use, very clear deductions could be made as to the average size of the American man.

I therefore sent a letter to two clothiers in Boston who have been long in the business, one in Chicago, one in New York, one in Baltimore, one in Detroit, one in Texas, and one in Montreal. The information received in return is to this effect.

In any given thousand garments the average of all the returns is as follows: chest-measure, 38 inches; waist, 33½ inches; length

of leg inside, 32½ inches; average height ranging from 5 feet 8½ to 5 feet 9 in New England, up to 5 feet 10 for the average at the South and West. A few deductions of weight are given from which one can infer that the average man weighs between 155 and 160 pounds.

These measures cover the average of the assorted sizes of garments which are made up by the thousand. There are a few small men who buy 'youths' sizes' so called, and a few larger men who buy 'extra sizes.' The remarks made in some of these letters are interesting.

My correspondent in Chicago states, "that, so far as relates to the assertion that the race in this country deteriorates, our experience teaches us that the contrary is the case. We are now, and have for several years past been, obliged to adopt a larger scale of sizes, and many more extra sizes in width as well as length, than were required ten years ago. I find that occupation and residence have a great deal to do with the difference in sizes, the average of sizes required for the cities and large towns being much less than that required for the country. Again, different sections vary very much in those requirements. For instance, an experienced stock-clerk will pick out for South and South-western trade, coats and vests, breast-measure 35 to 40, pants always one or two sizes smaller around the belly than the length of leg inside; for Western and Northern trade, coats and vests, breast-measure 37 to 42, pants 33 to 40 around the belly, 30 to 34 length of leg inside."

My correspondent in Texas gives the average 38 inches chest, 33 to 34 inches waist, 32½ leg-measure, 5 feet 10 inches height, adding, "We find that the waist-measure has increased from an average of 32, to 33 inches during the past five years, and we think our people are becoming stouter built."

My correspondent in Baltimore had previously made the same statement; to wit, "Since the late war we have noticed that the average-sized suits for our Southern trade has increased fully one inch around the chest and waist, while there has been no apparent change in the length of pants."

I asked this firm if the change could be due to the fact that the colored people had become buyers of ready-made clothing, but have for reply that the fact that the negroes are buying more ready-made clothing now than previous to the war, accounts in only a small degree for the increase of the size, but is due almost entirely to the increased physical activity on the part of the whites. The experiences of this firm covers thirty-five years.

My correspondent in New York states that "for the last thirty years our clothing, numbering at least 750,000 garments yearly, has been exclusively sold in the Southern States. We find the average man to measure 37 inches around the chest, 32 to 33 around the waist, 33 to 34 inches length of leg inside, average height 5 feet 10 inches. The Southerner measures more in the leg than around the waist, — a peculiarity in direct contrast to the Western man, who measures more around the waist than in the leg."

My correspondent in Canada gives the following details; experience covers twenty years, about 300,000 garments a year: —

Breast-measure.....	36,	37,	38,	39,	40,	41,	42,	44-
Waist " " " " " " " " " "	32,	33,	34,	35,	36,	37½,	39,	42.
Cut per 1,000 of above sizes.....	80,	160,	240,	240,	140,	60,	60,	20.
Average weight for each size.....	140,	150,	160,	168,	175,	180,	200,	225.

"The information about the weight I got from a custom tailor of some years' experience, and cannot, of course, vouch for its correctness."

My correspondent in Detroit says, "We notice marked peculiarities in regions where dwell people of one nationality. The Germans need large waists and short legs; the French, small waists and legs; the Yankees, small waists and long legs; the Jews, medium waists and short legs. We have found a decided demand for larger sizes than we formerly used."

This subject is foreign to my customary work. I give these statements as a matter of general interest, and perhaps some of the students who are engaged in this branch of investigation may take a hint from this method and extend it still further.

Possibly the average size for a woman could be deduced from the data of the manufacturers of knit goods. From what I know of the business of the clothiers to whom I made application, I should infer that the figures which I have submitted above would cover more than one hundred million garments; and I know of no better