

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