

to a state of stagnation. There is an art of being happy, a very essential part of which is the power to enjoy the little every-day comforts of living, and the absence of excessive worry about the morrow. To assure the reader that all this is not simply theory, the author plainly announces that he is happy. This is indeed a healthy optimism, and, if happiness is at all a scientific topic, the anthropologist is entitled to an authoritative voice in the matter. But one cannot escape the conviction, even in the midst of the most glowingly pictured pages, that the balmy air of Italy has allowed the poet to run away with the scientist, and that the problem of living is not so simple as we would like it to be. Be this as it may, these pages contain the very interesting observations of a very interesting man.

Winter: From the Journal of Henry D. Thoreau. Ed. by H. G. O. BLAKE. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 12°.

THIS volume is the third that has been made of selections from its author's journal. This singular man withdrew to a great extent from the interests and the society of his fellow-men, and devoted himself to the contemplation of nature. He was a naturalist; yet there is very little of scientific interest in the volume before us. He blames men of science for giving too exclusive attention to the physical structure of animals, with too little regard for their mental characteristics and their habits of life; yet he has not much to say on these subjects himself. He was evidently more interested in the æsthetic aspect of nature than in the scientific, though he shows but little insight into the deeper poetical significance of natural objects. His remarks run largely on the trivial every-day aspects of things, such as the tracks of animals on the snow, the appearance of buds and catkins in the winter, and the bark of the yellow birch; and he goes into ecstasies over the humming of a telegraph wire, which he declares to be superior to all the poetry of antiquity (p. 106). The journal is full of complaints about the loss of early friendships, several of Thoreau's friends having become estranged from him, which he seems to have been at loss to account for. But surely a man who took so little interest in human affairs as he seems to have done could hardly expect very warm sympathy from others. The journal contains many observations on moral and intellectual matters, which are often of much higher value than the descriptions of natural objects that make up the greater part of the work. The author's delineation of the character of Washington is correct and well expressed, and he has several remarks here and there on the subject of authors and authorship which are quite interesting. Thoreau's style is generally clear and refined, both in descriptive and in reflective passages; and if he had had a higher purpose in life, and more interest in the affairs of men, he might have been an eminent author.

Natural Law in the Business World. By HENRY WOOD. Boston, Lee & Shepard. 16°.

THE author of this work is a practical business-man, and writes throughout from a practical point of view. He disclaims all pretension to scientific profundity, yet he shows a clear grasp of scientific principles and of their relations to the business world. He speaks of his work as "an honest attempt to trace out the working and application of natural law, as it runs through the economic and social fabric, in a plain and simple manner" (p. 5). The attempt, we think, is in the main successful. The author's style is direct and clear, and his method of treatment better fitted to win the attention of practical but unscientific minds than the method of the regular economists.

The main thesis of the book is the supremacy in industry of the law of supply and demand, and the necessity of adherence to this law as a condition of industrial prosperity. Many other subjects, however, are treated in the various chapters, which cover a wide range of topics. Mr. Wood is strongly opposed to labor combinations, partly because of their antagonism to capital, and partly because they are sometimes unjust to non-unionists, and because, as he thinks, they unduly restrict the individual freedom of their own members. In condemning them so strongly as he does, we think he goes too far, for he seems to have judged them almost exclusively by their bad side, without regard to the benefits which may

and often do result from them. He shows, however, a lively interest in the laborers themselves and a strong desire for more harmonious relations between them and their employers. He emphasizes the fact that brain labor is more important than muscular labor, a fact that is too often overlooked by labor agitators; but he honors honest labor of every kind, and declares that labor is a blessing, and not a curse. Socialism, of course, meets with Mr. Wood's unsparing condemnation, and he looks with little favor on any species of State interference. The chapters on the unequal distribution of wealth, on dependence and poverty, on the railroad system, and on the management of corporations, are well considered, and worthy of perusal by both laborers and capitalists. The book is now issued in cheap form, with paper covers, and deserves a wide circulation.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE twentieth annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science was held in the Capitol Building, Topeka, Oct. 26, 27, 28, 1887. There was an excellent attendance of members, but the local attendance was not quite equal to that of last year. The capital has too many things in the way of meetings, etc., so the citizens become a little weary. The papers read were unusually valuable. The Academy of Science is growing. The annual meeting next year will be held in Wichita in October. The following is a list of the papers read: address of the retiring president, Rev. John D. Parker, on 'Progress in Astronomy'; Lucien J. Blake, 'Practical Electricity and the Laws of Energy'; H. W. Everest, 'The Utilization of Mental Power'; Robert Hay, 'The Lignite of the Kansas Dakota,' and 'Notes on Salt in Kansas'; W. R. Lighton, 'On the New Coal-Shaft at Leavenworth'; F. H. Snow, 'Fossil Flora of the Kansas Dakota,' and 'A List of the Fauna and Flora of the Kansas Coal-Measures'; D. S. Kelly, 'Notes on Fossil Elephas from Morton County'; Joseph Savage, 'A Fossil Deposit at Garden Park, Colorado'; E. H. S. Bailey, 'On the Recently discovered Ellsworth Salt-Beds'; Robert Hay, 'Notes on Building-Stones in Kansas'; N. S. Goss, 'On the Nesting of the Mississippi Kite and Snowy Plover in Central-Southern Kansas,' 'Notes on the Yellow-Tailed Cassiques,' and 'Feeding-Habits of the White Pelicans'; F. H. Snow, 'Notes on the Purslane-Worm (*Copidryas Gloveri*)'; W. Knaus, 'Notes on *Calopteron reticulatum* Fab.'; Charles R. Carpenter, 'On the Black Rot of the Grape'; Mrs. A. L. Slosson, 'Personal Observations on the Kansas Flora'; F. H. Snow, 'The Desmids of Kansas'; W. A. Kellerman, 'Some New or Little-Known Kansas Plants'; L. E. Sayre, 'Report of Further Observation on the Loco-Weed,' and 'The Resin of *Silphium laciniatum* (Rosin-Weed)'; W. R. Lighton, 'Notes on the Circulation of the Sap'; J. T. Lovewell, 'Alcohol in Temperance-Drinks'; T. H. Dinsmore, 'Should Malt be considered an Intoxicant?' and 'On the Effect of Oxygen on Animal Life'; E. H. S. Bailey, 'On the Relation between Taste and the Acidity of Certain Acids'; L. E. Sayre, 'The Action of Chromate of Lead upon the Gastric Fluid'; T. H. Dinsmore, 'Color-Blindness in the State Normal School'; J. T. Lovewell, 'Further Studies on the Rainfall in Kansas'; F. H. Snow, 'Rain Cycles in Kansas'; George E. Curtis, 'Weather-Predictions in the United States'; T. B. Jennings, 'Needs and Utility of the Kansas State Weather-Service'; George B. Curtis, 'The Exposure of Meteorological Instruments,' and 'Chimney-Hoods'; W. S. Franklin, 'Continuation of Some Studies of Lissajous Figures.'

—The steamship 'Hondo' sailed on Wednesday, Nov. 30, with the Nicaragua Canal Association's survey expedition. The work will be in immediate charge of E. S. Peary. The instructions issued by Chief-Engineer Menocal are very minute. The *Engineering News* says that five parties will be organized. First the survey by all the parties of the north-eastern section of the canal, with special attention to Greytown Harbor, is contemplated, estimated to take three months' time, when most of the parties are to be moved over to the comparatively short western section. The important detail of boring to ascertain the nature of the material is not to be neglected. The present idea is that six to nine months in all will cover the work of preliminary location enough to base tolerably exact estimates on.

—The annual meeting of the American Society for Psychical Research was held in Boston last week. After the opening remarks, Dr. Minot introduced Prof. H. P. Bowditch, who presented the report of the committee on thought transference. "Among the conditions possibly favorable to thought transference, supposing it to be a genuine phenomenon, the effect of a sudden and unexpected impression made on the mind of the agent seemed particularly worthy of investigation. For this purpose experiments were made in which a brilliantly illuminated figure or diagram could be suddenly displayed to the agent while sitting in a darkened room. The chairman of this committee, Mr. Hodgson, and Dr. W. S. Bigelow took part in these experiments, which were twenty or thirty in number, and conducted on different days in the month of July last. As absolutely no evidence of thought transference was obtained, the details of the experiments may be omitted. The suggestion made in the last report of this committee, that a drug might be discovered which by its action on the cerebral centres might favor thought transference, seemed also worth testing. For this purpose experiments were tried, with Mr. Hodgson acting both as agent and percipient while partially under the influence of ether, but the results differed in no respect from those obtained when he was in the normal state." In some other experiments made by Mr. Hodgson, Professor Bowditch added, there was a degree of success which warranted a continuation of the investigation. "It will be evident to those who have followed the work of the American Society thus far, that the attempt to obtain evidence as to the reality of 'thought transference' has been attended with very meagre results. If thought transference be a genuine psychological phenomenon, it is evident that the conditions favorable to its manifestation are not generally understood. Judging from our experience thus far, it would seem that an inquiring attitude of mind is certainly not one of these favoring circumstances." Other interesting reports to which the audience listened were those of the committee on experimental psychology, by Dr. Minot; the committee on apparitions and haunted houses, by Prof. Josiah Royce; the committee on hypnotic phenomena, by Mr. Charles B. Cory; and the committee on mediumistic phenomena, by Dr. W. N. Bullard.

—The reports of M. Larrieu, late missionary in China, who maintains that the great wall of China has never existed (*La Grande Muraille de Chine*, Paris, 1887), has been widely spread by the American daily papers. He claims that the wall consisted merely of watch-towers, built of earth and bricks, about twenty-five feet high and a thousand feet apart. In a few places they were connected by an embankment. He also says that the wall north of Peking and the palisades west of Sian-tung never existed. These views cannot be correct, as numerous travellers have seen the wall or its ruins. In regard to the palisades of Sian-tung, H. E. M. James, who recently visited Manchuria, says that at the present day they have disappeared entirely, though a mound or row of trees occasionally marks the place where they stood. The gateways, however, he found still maintained as customs-posts, at which transit duties are levied. Undoubtedly the wall consisted in many parts of earth, but there is no reason to maintain that it never existed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Rock Specimens from Cumberland Sound, Baffin Land.

THE following specimens were collected by Mr. W. Whiting of the whaling-station of Messrs. Williams & Co., New London, Conn., on Umanaktuak, an island on the south-west coast of Cumberland Sound. The specimen No. 10 was found by an Eskimo on a hunting excursion, and sold as a curiosity to Mr. Whiting, from whom I received the specimens for examination.

1. *Boulder from the Bed of a Torrent Umanaktuak*.—Compact limestone, almost black, and somewhat argillaceous. It weathers dark gray, and shows on the surface slightly projecting, fine, parallel lines of stratification from one-quarter to one-half an inch apart. No trace of fossils can be detected, either by inspection

or in microscopic sections. Under the microscope it is seen to consist of gray, rounded, fine calcareous grains with a few black ones, all apparently deposited from water.

2. *South-west Corner, Umanaktuak*.—Graphite with rusty surfaces, and holding drusy white quartz.

3. *Same Locality*.—A decomposing black crystalline rock, which, on microscopic examination, proves to consist of graphite, with hornblende, a triclinic felspar, and a little quartz. It breaks into angular fragments along thin layers of graphite, which are sliken-sided, and give each one the appearance of a piece of this mineral alone.

4. *Little Hill (Kagodloaping), Umanaktuak*.—Hornblendic gneiss, of a rather coarse 'pepper-and-salt' appearance, consisting of about equal parts of quartz and felspar, forming the white portion, and of black hornblende with smaller quantities of brown mica, the dark.

5. *Big Hill, Umanaktuak, High Level*.—Light gray gneiss of medium texture, composed of about equal parts of orthoclase and quartz, with a subordinate proportion of fine scales of black mica. Occasional crystals of the felspar are much larger than the rest.

6. *Big Hill, Umanaktuak, Shore Line Eastward*.—Gray gneiss, consisting of layers of mixed orthoclase and quartz, alternating with others composed of scales of brown mica.

7. *Umanaktuak*.—Rusty mica-schist of medium texture, the quartz in small proportion.

8. *Vein in Umanaktuak*.—Translucent white vitreous quartz having exactly the appearance of alum.

9. *Umanaktuak*.—White rather coarsely crystalline felspar and quartz, with a few small scales of white mica, being a very light-colored variety of granite, apparently from a small vein.

10. *About 40 Miles Inland, in a South-Westerly Direction from Umanaktuak*.—Foliated graphite with rusty surfaces and partings.

11. *Umanaktuak*.—Vitreous translucent gray quartz with thin plates of brown mica traversing it in different directions.

These specimens indicate the ordinary Laurentian system, and are of much the same character as on the north side of Hudson Strait, where the rocks appear to be allied to those of the lower Ottawa valley, and to be somewhat nearer and more modified than the great mass of the Laurentian in the Hudson Bay territories.

Dr. ROBERT BELL,

Assistant Director Geological Survey of Canada.

Ottawa, Nov. 28,

'Eskimo and the Indian.'

I WISH to add my voice to emphasize Dr. Boas's criticism of the method employed in Mr. Chamberlain's article with the above title. Though I should be sorry to hurt Mr. Chamberlain's feelings, I am obliged to say that there has been a great deal too much of the same sort of work done, and erroneous comparisons of this kind seem particularly alluring to those who attempt the study of the comparative philology of American languages on a large scale.

One reason for these errors is not far to seek. They of course are obliged to work with the published vocabularies of the Eskimo language. Now, as they have no knowledge of this language (and the number of those who have even an elementary knowledge of it, outside of the Danish settlers in Greenland, might almost be counted on the fingers), they are entirely unable to realize how bad most of those vocabularies are phonetically. Even the best of these, Dr. Rink's lately published comparative list of stem-words (see Dr. Boas's article in *Science*, Dec. 2), is written in the modern Greenlandic alphabet, which, in my opinion, masks many important phonetic relations, and they seem to have a sort of fatal instinct for getting hold of the oldest and least phonetic vocabularies. This is specially evident in Mr. Chamberlain's list of words. Dr. Boas has sufficiently disposed of the first table, but to show how misleading such things are, I have taken the trouble to go through his second list, taking such words as can be recognized as Eskimo words at all, and showing how their resemblances to the Indian words are due to a misapprehension of the real sound of the words. In expressing the sounds phonetically, I have used the alphabet employed by the Bureau of Ethnology in writing Indian languages, as the one with which I am most familiar. I think it will be sufficiently intelligible.