

relations between the United States and these tribes. This will treat of the various negotiations for peace and for the acquisition of territory, the causes rendering such negotiations necessary, and the methods observed by the government through its authorized agents in this diplomacy, as well as other matters of public concern growing out of the same. The eminent value of this work to the historian is self-evident, and the laborious care bestowed by Mr. Royce upon the carrying-out of this plan promises that it will be at once an exhaustive and clear treatment of this important part of the history of our Republic.

The first paper of the volume is Professor Cyrus Thomas's treatise on "Burial-Mounds of the Northern Section of the United States." Since this paper was written, much evidence has accumulated which has been outlined in a bulletin of the Bureau of Ethnology. It corroborates the views expressed by Professor Thomas in the present report.

His conclusions, as set forth in this paper, are that different sections of the country were occupied by different mound-building tribes, which, though belonging to much the same stage in the scale of culture, differed in most instances in habits and customs to a sufficient extent to mark, by their modes of burial, construction of their mounds, and their works of art, the boundaries of the respective areas occupied. He furthermore concludes that each tribe adopted several different modes of burial, depending, in all probability, to some extent upon the social condition, position, and occupation of the deceased. The custom of removing the flesh before the final burial apparently prevailed very extensively among the mound-builders of the northern sections; the bones of the common people being often gathered together, and cast in promiscuous heaps, over which mounds were built. Usually some kind of religious ceremony was performed at the burial, in which fire played a prominent part; but, notwithstanding the very common belief, there is no evidence whatever that human sacrifice was practised. The builders of the mounds had not reached a higher culture than that attained by some of the Indian tribes found occupying the country at the time of the first arrival of Europeans. Professor Thomas concludes his treatise by expressing his opinion that the mound-building age cannot have lasted longer than about a thousand years, and that it continued to be practised in several localities in post-Columbian times.

There remain two papers to be noted, both of peculiar interest, — the one by Dr. Washington Matthews, who gives a very detailed description of one of the remarkable religious ceremonies of the Navajo; the other by Mrs. T. E. Stevenson on the religious child-life of the Zuñi.

Dr. Matthews describes the long ceremonies of the Mountain-Chant, and gives the long myth which is the foundation of these ceremonies. His paper concludes with the original texts of the songs, and translations of the same. It is impossible to give an account of the interesting contents of this essay, which is full of new facts of the greatest importance to the student of anthropology.

Mrs. Stevenson's paper is of a somewhat similar character, treating of the connection between certain customs and myths. This field of study, so ably taken up by Dr. Matthews and Mrs. Stevenson, has so far received comparatively little attention; and yet it is one of the most important for the study of the human mind and of the growth of institutions.

The publications of the Bureau of Ethnology mark every one a long step forward in our knowledge of man in America, and are therefore anxiously awaited by all students. We hope that the following volumes may be issued at shorter intervals, that the important material contained in them may soon become public property.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

The Birds of the West Indies. By CHARLES B. CORY. Boston, Estes & Lauriat. 8°.

IN preparing the present work, Mr. Cory examined a large series of birds from nearly all the islands of the West Indies, the combined collections representing many thousands of specimens. He made five trips to different parts of these islands, besides which a

number of collectors were sent out, for the purpose of obtaining as complete a series as possible. Several of these collectors were engaged upon their task from six to eighteen months, and it is fair to assume that their collections contained nearly all of the resident species of the islands which they visited. Some of these collections proved especially interesting, being very rich in novelties, the collections of one person containing no less than seventeen species new to science.

Most of the matter contained in the present work appeared originally in the *Auk* during the years 1886, 1887, and 1888; but since that time a large number of species have been added to the West Indian avifauna which were either new to science or had not been previously recorded from that locality. Descriptions of these are given in an appendix, unless included in their proper order in the body of the work. A number of alterations and corrections have been made in the original plates, and several new illustrations have been added. No descriptions are given of well-known North American birds, and the references to such are mainly restricted to the citation of works and papers on West Indian ornithology.

The excellent mechanical make-up of the book admirably supplements the painstaking and thorough work done by Mr. Cory in its preparation.

Louis Lambert. By HONORÉ DE BALZAC. Tr. by Katherine P. Wormeley, with introduction by George F. Parsons. Boston, Roberts Bros. 12°. \$1.50.

BALZAC seems to have written this story for the express purpose of making known what he would call his philosophy, which is a curious compound of mysticism and nonsense. The hero of the tale, Lambert, is introduced when a boy, and considerable space is given to his experience and reflections while at school. At a later time, after a season in Paris, he falls in love with a titled lady, and marries her. Unfortunately, however, he becomes insane just before his marriage, and remains so ever after, and dies while still a young man. The "philosophy" of the book is contained partly in his conversations and letters, but chiefly in some papers composed after he became insane; and these latter seem to be the dearest to the soul of Balzac. The doctrine expressed in them is of the occult kind, as will be seen from the following specimens: "Here below all is the product of an ethereal substance, the common base of several phenomena. . . . Will is a fluid, the attribute of every being endowed with motion. . . . Facts are nought; they do not exist; ideas alone exist. . . . All things here below exist only by motion and by number. . . . There is a number which impurity cannot transcend — the number wherein creation is finished. . . . Three and seven are the two great spiritual numbers" (pp. 138-148). Besides the story that gives name to the book, there are two others in the volume; but there is little connection between them and Louis Lambert; and the second of them, Gambara, we have found intensely disagreeable. The introduction to the book, which is as long as the leading story, is partly a summary of Balzac's ideas, and partly an attempt to reconcile them with the teachings of physical science, — an attempt which, as may be supposed, is not very successful.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

GINN & Co. announce "An Introduction to the Poetry of Robert Browning," by William John Alexander, Munro professor of English language and literature, Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S., and formerly fellow of Johns Hopkins University, to be published in February. The book opens with an account of Browning's most striking peculiarities in method and style, and attempts to find an explanation of these in the conditions amidst which the poet has worked, and in the nature of the themes which he treats. In the next place, an exposition is given of those general ideas pervading his work, which can only be gathered from the study of many of his poems, and yet are needful for the full understanding of almost any one of them. This exposition is contained in a series of chapters on "Browning's Philosophy," "Christianity as presented in Browning's Works," and "Browning's Theory of Art." These chapters are followed by a brief chronological review of his writings, and characterization of his development. The various points treated throughout the introduction are illustrated