

The strict seclusion of the women is relaxed on one day in June, when women may go anywhere with uncovered faces. The homes of the foreign residents in Seoul are visited then by thousands of curious women.

If a man walks over all the foot-bridges of the city on the middle day of January, he is supposed to secure good health for the year.

The city gates are closed and locked from dark until dawn, and it is death to the guardsman who opens them to admit any one. Generations of belated and wall-scaling Koreans have worn a staircase of crevices in the wall by which they mount to the gate tower; or the guardsmen will haul them up by a rope, there being a regular tariff of charges for the use of ropes, and the mandarins getting their regular percentage of the fees.

The manufactures of to-day are very crude and wholly inartistic. Peddlers of tin bring pieces of iron damascened with silver, that at once prove the Persian influence of the old arts by the decorative forms. Korean ambassadors are supposed to have met the Persians at the Peking Court in the time of Genghis and Khublai Khan.

ETHNOLOGY.

Mound-Builders and Indians.

IN a recent number of the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, Mr. Gerard Fowke attempts to disprove "popular errors in regard to mound-builders." The author shares the view of Professor Cyrus Thomas, that the mound-builders were Indians, and that no great antiquity must be claimed for their works. The principal points adduced by the supporters of the theory of the existence of an ancient high state of culture and of a dense population are taken up one by one and discussed. Thus he reduces the opinion regarding the high character of the works of the mound-builders to its proper level. One of the important points to be decided, in an estimate of this ancient race, is the question regarding the density of population. The same reasons which were claimed for an ancient dense habitation of Arctic America have been considered as proof in the case of the mound-builders. It is said that numerous ruins on a limited area indicate a great number of inhabitants; but, as no proof can be given that they have been inhabited simultaneously, it is quite possible, that, notwithstanding their great number, the population was very sparse. It seems to us that the author's doubts as to a considerable antiquity of some of these ancient monuments are not well founded; but his criticism of the exaggerated views regarding the works and civilization of this ancient race is timely, and will help to the formation of a juster appreciation of the real significance of these works.

THE JADE QUESTION. — F. W. Clarke and G. P. Merrill have made an examination of a series of jade implements from the collections of the United States National Museum. The results of this investigation, which were published in the "Proceedings of the United States National Museum," are in favor of the theory that the occurrence of implements made of similar varieties of jadeites and nephrites in widely separated countries must not be considered proof of a common source of the material. The authors, whose arguments are based on very exhaustive microscopical and chemical investigations, believe that it is hardly practicable to distinguish, by means of thin sections and the microscope, between nephrites from various sources. "The presence or absence of enclosures of diopside, magnetite, or ferruginous oxides; the condition of these oxides, whether as ferric or ferrous; the varying tufted, bent, confused fibrous and even granular condition of the constituent parts, — are all, together with the color-variations and other structural peculiarities, matters of too slight import to be of weight from a petrographic standpoint. If, as seems possible, the majority of the nephrites are of secondary origin, why may we not expect to find all, or at least a great variety, of the structures described in the same or closely adjacent rock-masses? Chemical analyses on samples from near-lying, or even the same, localities are found often to vary as greatly as those from localities widely separated. Why may we not expect the same structural variations, when once they are carefully looked for? To our own minds, sufficient assurances that the widely scattered jadeite and nephrite objects were derived from many independent sources, and possess no value whatever in the work of tracing the migration and inter-communi-

cation of races, lie in the fact that these substances are comparatively common constituents of metamorphic rocks, and hence liable to be found anywhere where these rocks occur. Their presence is as meaningless as would be the finding of a piece of graphite. The natives required a hard, tough substance capable of receiving and retaining a sharp edge and polish, and took it wherever it was to be found."

SIGNALLING AMONG PRIMITIVE PEOPLES. — As is well known, the Indians of our continent use rising smoke to give signals to distant friends. A small fire is started, and, as soon as it burns fairly well, grass and leaves are heaped on top of it. Thus a large column of steam and smoke rises. By covering the fire with a blanket, the rising of the smoke is interrupted at regular intervals, and the successive clouds are used for conveying messages. Recently R. Andree has compiled notes on the use of signals by primitive people, and finds that they are well-nigh in universal use. Recently attention has been called to the elaborate system of drum signals used by the Kamerun negroes, by means of which long messages are sent from village to village. While it was supposed that this remarkable system of communication was confined to a limited region, explorations in the Kongo basin have shown that it prevails throughout Central Africa. The Bakuba use large wooden drums, on which different tones are produced by two drum-sticks. Sometimes the natives "converse" in this way for hours; and from the energy displayed by the drummers, and the rapidity of the successive blows, it seemed that the conversation was very animated. The Galla south of Abyssinia have drums stationed at certain points of the roads leading to neighboring states. Special watchmen are appointed who have to beat the drum on the approach of enemies. Cecchi, who observed this custom, designates it as a "system of telegraphs." The same use of drums is found in New Guinea. From the rhythm and rapidity of the blows, the natives know at once whether an attack, a death, or a festival is announced. The same tribes use columns of smoke or (at night) fires to convey messages to distant friends. The latter are also used in Australia. Columns of smoke of different forms are used for signals by the inhabitants of Cape York and the neighboring island. In Victoria hollow trees are filled with fresh leaves, which are lighted. The signals thus made are understood by their friends. In eastern Australia the movements of a traveller were made known by columns of smoke, and so was the discovery of a whale in Portland Bay. These notes, which might be increased considerably, show the general existence of methods of communication over long distances, — the art of telegraphing in its first stages of development.

NOTES AND NEWS.

RECENTLY much light has been thrown upon the phenomena of glaciation in Greenland. Dr. F. Nansen's daring trip across the inland ice will clear up important questions regarding the meteorological conditions of the interior and the maximum height of land. In the past year Mr. Ch. Rabot has examined the ice phenomena of the west coast, and arrived at the conclusion that the glaciers of Lapland must be considered inland ice in miniature. He is of the opinion that the latter must be considered vestiges of the glacial period in Scandinavia, which have remained to the present day in consequence of particular circumstances. He also observed that the great glacier of Jacobstown has advanced almost two miles since the year 1878.

— Mrs. Amélie Rives-Chanler has offered a prize of \$100 for the best American essay on child-labor. The money has been placed in the hands of Professor Richard T. Ely of Baltimore, secretary of the American Economic Association. The essay must not exceed 55,000 words, and must be in Professor Ely's hands not later than Dec. 2, 1889.

— The Royal Society of Palermo has decorated Professor P. T. Austen of Rutgers College with a gold order, in recognition of his scientific work.

— The following meetings will be held in Paris in August, 1889. viz., Congress of Geography and Ethnology, from Aug. 5 to Aug. 12; Association Française, Aug. 8 to Aug. 15; Congrès d'Anthropologie, Aug. 19 to Aug. 26.