

*Lore.* The second, entitled "The Supernatural among the Omaha Tribe of Indians," was afterwards published in Vol. I. No. 3, of the "Proceedings of the American Society of Psychical Research." The third paper was on "Winter Life among the Winnebago Indians;" and the fourth, on "The Heathuska Society of the Omaha and Ponka Indians and Indian Music." The last is now in press as a publication of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology. Commendation of the original and important work of Mrs. Stevenson and Miss Fletcher would be quite superfluous.

"Legends and Historical Sketches of the Iroquois Indians" (Washington, 1887) is the title of a privately printed pamphlet by Mrs. Laura M. Scofield, containing material previously presented to the society in two papers. Two valuable communications have been given orally by corresponding members: viz., "Reminiscences of Life among the Iroquois Indians in the Province of Quebec," by the late Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith; and "The Sioux Indians," by Miss Mary C. Collins of Dakota.

A number of members at one time found a most interesting field for study in the Basque races, and their results were presented in a series of brief papers. Mrs. Seaman discussed the home life of the Basques; Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Tullock, their literature; Mrs. McDonald described their marriage customs; and Miss Spofford, their music. Miss Cathcart also condensed the results of prolonged study into an account of the spread of the Turanian races into Europe.

These papers on the Basques are all compilations, but personal observation is again represented in such communications as the following: Mrs. Carter, our esteemed president, has given an admirable account of the Hawaiians, while Mrs. Jean M. Lander ably described some customs and manners of Scotch Highlanders. Mrs. Melissa A. Bryan offered some notes upon the Japanese; Mrs. Louise F. Hunt talked about Russia; and Miss Elisa R. Scidmore has quite recently presented a chapter from her forthcoming work on Korea.

The division of technology is represented by several papers, three of them being especially noteworthy and interesting. Under the title "Habitations of Man," Mrs. Hannah L. Bartlett summarized her researches concerning the dwellings of a large number of civilized people. An account of house-building in Alaska came from Mrs. Ella F. Thomas, as one result of a two-years' stay in that land. To these Mrs. Carter added some facts concerning the habitations of the Hawaiians. Mrs. Matilda G. Bancroft of San Francisco acknowledged her membership in our society by sending a paper on "Ceramic Art of the Pacific Coast;" and Mrs. Mary E. Brown of New York, a corresponding member, read what has since appeared as the chapter on "Chinese Music," in her book entitled "Musical Instruments and their Homes" (New York, 1888). Another interesting and important contribution, from Mrs. Scofield, is on "Petroleum and Natural Gas and their Relations to Man."

Only two papers may be classed as archæologic. The departure of Miss Sarah A. Scull for Greece in the spring of 1886 has already been mentioned. Her destination was Athens, where for over two years she was connected with the American School of Classical Studies, and pursued original researches among the ruins of Hellas. Her work and that of her associates was the theme of a most interesting discourse with which the society was lately favored.

An account has been given of studies in a similar direction, though not so detailed in character. The communication of Mrs. Mary Parke Foster on "The Ancient Ruins of Mexico" was based on material collected during a seven-years' residence in our neighboring republic. During this time some expeditions into almost unknown territory were made, and certain ruins explored for the first time by a foreign lady.

In the division of sociology appears a recent account of the evolution of a community. In this Mrs. McGee followed the development of a religious body from its origin in Germany through various stages to its present state as the most successful communistic organization in America. Two years ago the study of folk-lore was commended by Miss Ellen Wier Cathcart, and Mrs. Mary Olmsted Clarke gave some negro song games which had not been discovered by either Mr. W. H. Babcock or Professor H. C. Bolton.

Last, but not least, must be mentioned the papers in somatology, some of which have also touched on psychology. Mrs. Clara Bliss Hinds, M.D., has long made a special study of anthropometry, and has urged upon our members the value of proper measurements and records in her paper already noted on "Child-Growth" and in "How to Study Children." Mrs. Mary E. James presented an able *résumé* of studies made in the asylums of Brooklyn, N.Y., in her communication on "Food in its Relations to Child-Growth." Under the title "Comparative Human Growth," Mrs. Emma Hammond Ward set forth some important but little known physiologic laws and their mental and moral bearing upon the race. Here, too, must be included Mrs. Scofield's paper upon "Life." Finally, the president of the Washington branch in the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, Mrs. Anna Howes Barus, has treated us to "The Physical History of College Women," an article based on statistics collected under the direction of its author, and already published elsewhere.

Such are the principal themes thus far discussed by our society. In these brief notes it has been impossible to convey more than the vaguest idea of their scope or character, or to indicate their value as original contributions to knowledge. The purpose of this report will have been served if some conception has been given to this new work undertaken by women, and of the progress already made upon it. Mistakes have been made in the management and work of the society. We do not claim perfection in any particular, but we do believe our organization to be the minute seed from which a great forest will spring.

There are hundreds of societies in which knowledge is cultivated and fostered for its own sake, and in which many grand and useful conceptions find birth; there are in the United States several scientific societies devoted wholly to anthropology; but among all of these the first to be organized and maintained by women alone is the Women's Anthropological Society of America.

#### THE "EXCELSIOR CLASSES" IN AUSTRALIA.<sup>1</sup>

ABOUT five or six years ago, Mr. William Groom, a young workman in a silk-hat factory in Melbourne, used to observe with great distress the large number of boys who were drinking in the saloons of the city, especially on Saturday nights. The sight at last troubled him so much, that he resolved to attempt some method of diminishing the evil: so one evening he accosted a group of boys in a saloon, and asked them whether they really found any enjoyment in that mode of spending time. They answered that perhaps, after all, there was not much fun in it. Mr. Groom then invited them to come next Saturday evening to his lodgings, and said that he would try to furnish them with better amusement. Some of the boys came; and Mr. Groom, though feeling awkward and embarrassed, did his best to entertain them with games, reading, and a little personal talk. By degrees his unique power of influencing boys became manifest; numbers began to gather round him; and his work became known to few persons of wealth and position, who, recognizing Mr. Groom's peculiar gifts, agreed to guarantee a sufficient sum annually to enable him to devote his whole time to the work among the boys.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that Mr. Groom's most enthusiastic supporter is a young artist, belonging to a family of high standing and influence in Victoria, who is himself carrying on an interesting and valuable work in the Melbourne Hospital. Owing to impaired vision, he is able to work at his profession only during the morning hours: he therefore devotes three afternoons in the week to visiting the patients in the surgical wards of the hospital, — those in the medical wards having comparatively little superfluous energy, — reading and talking to them, keeping them supplied with books, and teaching them netting, macramé-work, and the construction of picture-frames and a variety of other artistic and useful objects. The various materials required he brings at each visit. In this way the wearisome hours of the patients are lightened, some useful minor industries are learned, and the sale of the products gives the patients in many cases a substantial sum of money to make a fresh start when they are discharged from the hospital.

<sup>1</sup> Notes of a talk by William Grey, Esq., of the Denison Club, London, to a few students of social science in the Johns Hopkins University, Jan. 12, 1889.

To return to Mr. Groom's special work. When he was enabled to give his whole time to it, the movement spread rapidly. Six or seven large classes, each consisting of several hundreds of boys, were formed in various parts of the city. Mr. Groom's earnest endeavor throughout was to establish them on a self-governing and self-supporting basis, and to avoid all showy display of the work for the sake of obtaining "patronage" and contributions. The weekly meetings of the classes are held primarily for the sake of mutual entertainment. A large room is either lent or rented, and a varied performance takes place, — songs, recitations, an occasional farce, and a few words of advice, admonition, or encouragement from the leader of the class. The chairman of the meeting is elected by the boys, as also are the secretary, treasurer, and door-keepers. Mr. Groom, when he is present, is always elected as leader. The small dues of the class, usually about six cents, are collected weekly. In connection with the classes, too, are penny banks and lending libraries. A remarkable work has been carried on by some of the bigger boys, who were formerly leaders in mischief and outrage among the vicious "larrikins" who nightly haunt the streets of the Australian cities, and cause sore perplexity to those who study social problems in those colonies. A few of these reclaimed "hoodlums," sally forth together on Saturday nights, go from one saloon to another, and, if they see boys drinking there, bid them come out and join them. The boys instinctively obey their former leaders, meekly follow them, and are brought within the circle of influence of the Excelsior Classes.

From Melbourne the movement has already spread to Sydney. A young clerk in one of the government offices of New South Wales, while on a visit to Melbourne, heard of Mr. Groom's work, and was so deeply impressed by what he saw of it that he determined to devote his evenings to a similar work in his own city. An admirable class is now organized in the midst of a very poor district.

It was at Sydney that I first came into contact with the work. I well remember the striking character of the scene. Passing between two vigilant boy door-keepers, I entered a large, bare school-room, lighted with flaming gas-jets. More than a hundred boys of all sorts and sizes, many ragged and with bare feet, were sitting, absolutely quiet and orderly, with eager, intelligent faces, listening to a few words from their elected leader or "critic," as he is here styled, the government clerk whom I have mentioned. The chairman, secretary, and treasurer, each adorned with a broad crimson scarf, as of some knightly order, were at their posts. Then the entertainment began, consisting almost entirely of recitations and songs chosen by the boys themselves. No trace of any thing coarse or low appeared: the tendency, oddly enough, was to pieces of a profoundly melancholy and sentimental order. The choruses of the more lively songs were taken up by the whole body of boys with an energy which seemed almost great enough to break the windows and blow off the roof. But throughout the meeting the order and discipline maintained for themselves by these rough street boys was simply perfect. After the entertainment was over, the treasurer collected the weekly dues, and then the business of a penny bank was transacted. I left the meeting, feeling that I had seen the finest sight in all Australia.

Some weeks later I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Groom himself at his little house near Melbourne. At this time he was in a very shattered state of health, and only just recovering from the effects of a terrible railroad accident. He had been compelled for six months to withdraw entirely from the supervision of the Excelsior Classes; but he was still able to attend to a deeply interesting branch of his work at home, — the rescue of boys of the most depraved and degraded class, whom he had found lying about the wharves at night, or had intercepted on their discharge from prison.

He showed me in his back garden a low, long barrack of six little chambers, separated from each other by solid walls, so that no communication should be possible by night among the inmates. Each room was simply but prettily furnished. On the wall hung an illuminated and framed copy of the Lord's Prayer; and in another frame, a stanza of some hymn or poem, intended to meet the special need of the occupant of the room. During the day the boys are sent to the public school: the rest of their time is filled up

with work of various kinds, — carpentry, digging, gardening, and household duties. They take their meals with Mr. and Mrs. Groom, and thus learn decent manners at table. Mr. Groom has gone with great care and thoroughness into the subject of the various forms of vice to which these poor boys are specially prone, and uses every effort to ascertain and apply the surest and most appropriate remedies and preventives. When the boys have been thoroughly reclaimed, they are drafted off to places in the country. The demand for the boys is far greater than Mr. Groom can supply.

This is a department of his work which Mr. Groom guards with the greatest care from ostentatious publicity, rightly deeming that the subject is far too grave and awful to be made a matter of advertising and promiscuous patronage. The necessary funds are, I believe, supplied by a few attached friends, and by a single large business firm. It is by no means easy — *experto credite* — for others to obtain the privilege of contributing to the work.

It was exceedingly interesting to observe the effect upon the Excelsior Classes of Mr. Groom's disablement. Four or five of the classes, it must be confessed, had at the time of my visit lapsed into a state of suspended animation, although there was every reason to hope that they would revive at Mr. Groom's touch. One class which I visited was still in operation, but it was evidently on the point of breaking down. The temporary leader, a good and really heroic young fellow, was evidently not quite fitted for his post. On the evening of my visit the meeting was a very large one, and a number of turbulent youths had made their way in. The leader, as I could tell from my former scholastic experience, was at fault in every appeal which he made to the audience, and naturally excited some derision. However, the performance was creditably gone through, in spite of some interruptions. I was struck by the genuine courtesy of the boys, who, although I was the only visitor present in the unruly assembly, never by word or act made my position in the slightest degree uncomfortable, although considerable ingenuity was shown in worrying their "leader." I was not surprised to learn that the subsequent meeting broke up in confusion, and the class was suspended.

In the next class which I visited, all was cheering and hopeful. About a hundred boys, with many of their friends and relations, were present in a cheerful, well-lighted schoolroom. An admirable entertainment was provided, — songs, recitations, a short farce, and, if I remember rightly, some gymnastic exercises. A few wholesome words were addressed to the boys by their elected leader, — a young, fresh-looking boy, who is employed as a clerk in a business-house. Although the class had for six months been deprived of Mr. Groom's supervision, the order and discipline of the meeting left nothing to be desired. The genial *bonhomie* and courtesy of the boys deeply impressed me. I remained for some time after the meeting, talking with the boys, and examining their library and savings bank. My favorable impression was continually deepened. Here, I thought, was a sight even grander than I had witnessed in Sydney, as proving what democratic government, free from all suspicion of being qualified, may do among boys.

Some further details of this interesting work may be derived from *The Excelsior*, — a monthly paper which was, and not improbably is still, published for the classes. Mr. Groom himself is always pleased to communicate with persons who are genuinely and practically interested in this and similar work. Address W. Groom, care of Edw. à Beckett, Brighton, Melbourne, Australia.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

GINN & Co. have in preparation "Our World," by Mary L. Hall, revised and arranged as a supplementary reading-book.

— The latest issue of Ticknor's Paper Series is the novel "Under Green Apple Boughs," by Helen Campbell. The story is illuminated by eight full-page pictures by Howard Pyle.

— The *Fortnightly Review* for March (New York, Leonard Scott Publication Company) opens with the first of Sir Charles Dilke's important and valuable papers on "The Frontiers of India," in which he describes his journey, and the impressions made in the earlier part of it; F. I. Ricarde-Seaver and Sir Charles Metcalfe contribute a comprehensive article on "The British