

valuable contribution to the study of the native American tribes, their history, antiquities, religion, and literature, by one of the best-known scholars in this branch, should be in the hands of every person interested in the subject, and on the shelves of every library. Among the questions discussed are, under Part I., the data for the study of the prehistoric chronology of America, palæoliths (American and other), the alleged Mongolian affinities of the American race, the probable nationality of the mound-builders of the Ohio valley, the Toltecs of Mexico and their fabulous empire; under Part II., the sacred names in the mythology of the Quiches of Guatemala, the hero-god of the Algonkins as a cheat and liar, the journey of the soul in Egyptian, Aryan, and American mythology, the sacred symbols of the Cross (the Svastika and the Triquetrum) in America, the modern folk-lore of the natives of Yucatan, the folk-lore of the modern Lenape Indians; under Part III., the phonetic elements in the hieroglyphs of the Mayas and Mexicans, the iconomatic method of phonetic writing used by the ancient Mexicans, the writing and records of the ancient Mayas of Yucatan, the books of Chilán Balam (the sacred volume of the modern Mayas), translation of the inscription on "The Stone of the Giants" at Orizaba, Mex., the poetry of the American Indians, with numerous examples; under Part IV., American aboriginal languages and why we should study them, Wilhelm von Humboldt's researches in American languages, some characteristics of American languages, the earliest form of human speech as revealed by American languages, the conception of love as expressed in some American languages, the lineal measures of the semi-civilized nations of Mexico and Central America, the curious hoax about the Taensa language. In Part IV. there is also an index of authors and authorities, and an index of subjects.

—Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co. have issued "The Skipper in Arctic Seas," by Walter J. Clutterbuck, being an account of a voyage northward from Scotland toward Greenland and Jan Mayen Island, and culminating at Spitzbergen. The book is in many parts amusing, the events of the voyage being described in a humorous vein and in a pretty good style. The principal object of the trip was seal-shooting, though this was pursued, by the author of the book at least, as a pleasure rather than a business. Some account is given of the mode of hunting seals and of preparing their skins and fat for use. There are also occasional remarks on the climate, the birds, and the scenery, of a more or less interesting and instructive char-

acter. Still, we could wish there had been more of this kind of information, and less about the personal haps and mishaps of the author and his companions; and this not merely in the interest of science, but for the sake of readers generally. Travellers are too apt to think that the personal incidents of their trip are as interesting to their readers as to themselves; whereas what readers chiefly care for is the country visited, and not the personal affairs of the visitors.

—During 1889, R. W. Shufeldt contributed a series of articles to *The American Field* on the extinct mammals of the United States. These short sketches have now been reprinted in pamphlet form, and, as they are illustrated, one may gather from them some idea of the curious animals, now extinct, that once roamed over this country.

—In *Outing* for March are articles on "The Art of Boxing," by A. Austen; "The National Guard at Creedmoor," by Lieut. W. R. Hamilton; "The Waterloo Cup," by Hugh Dalziel; and "By-Ways near Natchez," "Hunting and Fishing in the Northwest," "The Yachting Outlook," "Our Home-Made Trip to Europe," and "Quail-Shooting in California."

—At the beginning of the ninth volume of *The Forum*, The Forum Publishing Company remind its friends of the following cardinal facts about its career and plan of conduct: "Advance is made in society, in politics, in religion, and in practical affairs, not by revolutionary methods, but it is helped by enlightened and candid discussion conducted within the limits of reverence and dignity. All safe leaders are conservative, because they know that human progress is achieved rather by evolution than by revolution. *The Forum*, therefore, being sincerely devoted to the advancement of sound and safe thinking, has never admitted to its pages advocates of revolutionary methods, but has sought to give its readers the benefit of the thought and experience of the safest guides. It is to this fact—that *The Forum* is always constructive and never destructive in its conduct—that its great success is attributed. The mass of the people who are in search of the truth, and who have not lost their bearings by reason of any of the wild theories of the time, have found in its conduct a constructive purpose in sympathy with their own ideas of progress; and *The Forum* has had the good fortune to draw to itself, for this reason more than for any other reason, the support of the great number of intelligent and conservative people in the country. The patronage that has kindly recognized this effort during the volume that is just completed has doubled the busi-

Publications received at Editor's Office,
Feb. 24-March 8.

- AREY, A. L. Laboratory Manual of Experimental Physics. Syracuse, N.Y., C. W. Bardeen. 200 p. 16°. 75 cents.
- BARKAN, L. How to preserve Health. New York, Exchange Pr. Co. 344 p. 12°.
- BOOLE, Mary. Logic taught by Love. Boston, Alfred Mudge & Son. 177 p. 12°.
- CENTURY Dictionary, The. An Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language. Prepared under the Superintendence of William Dwight Whitney, Ph.D., LL.D. Vol. II. New York, The Century Co. 1222 p. 4°.
- CREMONA, L. Graphical Statics: Two Treatises on the Graphical Calculus and Reciprocal Figures in Graphical Statics. Tr. by Thomas Hudson Beare, Oxford, Clarendon Pr. 161 p. 8°. (New York, Macmillan, \$2.25.)
- ELLIS, J. Address to the Clergy, and Skepticism and Divine Revelation. New York, The Author. 260 p. 12°.
- FRIESE, P. C. Semitic Philosophy: showing the Ultimate Social and Scientific Outcome of Original Christianity in its Conflict with Surviving Ancient Heathenism. Chicago, S. C. Griggs & Co. 247 p. 12°.
- GEOLOGICAL and Natural History Survey of Canada, Annual Report of. Vol. III. Parts I. and II. Montreal, W. F. Brown & Co. Maps. 8°.
- GODWIN, H. C. Railroad Engineers' Field-Book and Explorers' Guide. New York, Wiley. 358 p. 16°.
- HOLMES, W. H. Textile Fabrics of Ancient Peru. Washington, Government. 17 p. 8°.
- ILLINOIS State Board of Health, Tenth Annual Report of the. With an Appendix. Springfield, State. 813 p. 8°.
- JONES, E. E. C. Elements of Logic as a Science of Propositions. New York, Scribner & Welford. 208 p. 8°. \$3.

- KNOFLACH, A. Sound-English: A Language for the World. New York, Stechert. 63 p. 12°. 25 cents.
- LELAND, L. A Woman's Journey around the World Alone. New York, Am. News Co. 358 p. 12°. 25 cents.
- MACAULAY, T. Lays of Ancient Rome. (Riverside Literature Series, No. 45.) Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. 117 p. 16°. 15 cents.
- OPEN Sesame! Poetry and Prose for School-Days. Ed. by Blanche Wilder Bellamy and Maud Wilder Goodwin. Boston, Ginn. 316 p. 12°. 90 cents.
- PILLING, J. C. Bibliography of the Iroquoian Languages. Washington, Government. 208 p. 8°.
- Bibliography of the Muskogean Languages. Washington, Government. 114 p. 8°.
- SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Fifth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology to the Secretary of the, 1883-84. By J. W. Powell, director. Washington, Government. 564 p. 4°.
- SWEDENBORG, E. Heaven and the World of Spirits, and Hell. New York, Swedenborg Pub. Society. 416 p. 24°. 14 cents.
- THOMAS, C. The Circular, Square, and Octagonal Earthworks of Ohio. Washington, Government. 33 p. 8°.
- The Problem of the Ohio Mounds. Washington, Government. 54 p. 8°.
- U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Topographical Maps of Portions of Montana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Iowa, Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado, and West Virginia. Washington, Government. 28 maps. 1°.
- VON SACHS, J. History of Botany (1530-1860). Tr. by H. E. F. Gärnsey. Oxford, Clarendon Pr. 568 p. 12°. (New York, Macmillan, \$2.50.)
- WAGNER, M. Die Entstehung der Arten durch räumliche Sonderung. Basel, Benno Schwabe. 607 p. 8°.

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It is well known that over the plains in Colorado crops are now being raised without irrigation in places where this was formerly supposed impossible. This is in large part due to the adoption of improved methods of cultivation specially adapted to the climatic conditions. The farmer early observed the dry weather of June, and came to expect it as a rule. On these plains successful agriculture was possible only after a careful study of the June drought. At the present time the aim is to have the times of planting so fixed that at the time of this drought each crop shall be at that stage of its growth in which experience shows it can best endure the dry weather.

G. H. STONE.

Colorado Springs, March 5.

The Fiske Range-Finder.

WITH reference to the very interesting suggestion of Mr. J. F. Dennison concerning my range-finder, which appeared in your issue of Feb. 28, I can only say that the plan which he suggests has been the subject of much thought on my part, and has been sketched out in many modified forms. The only objection to it is the very commonplace, but very potent one, that the end attained is hardly worth the apparatus required. Some person must be at hand to read the distances indicated, and he can very easily move the contacts himself. As a general principle, I think it is agreed that mechanism should never be introduced where it can be avoided, for mechanism is liable to disarrangement; and simplicity should, it seems to me, be the aim of all invention.

BRADLEY A. FISKE, U.S.N.

New York, March 5.

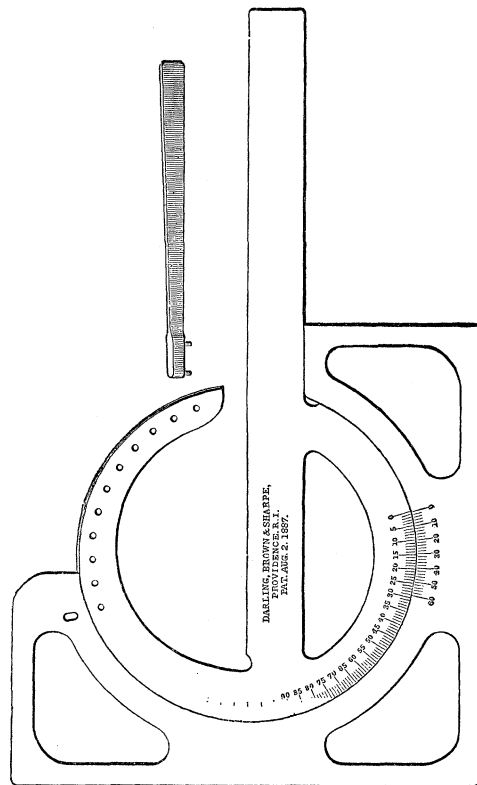
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THE protractor shown in the accompanying cut is made from one-sixteenth inch sheet steel, and is light and durable. The length of the blade is eight inches and a half. The graduations read to degrees, and the vernier reads to two minutes. This protractor is chiefly used in connection with a T-square or straight-edge. It can be quickly and accurately set by hand to any angle. A lever is, however, provided as of possible advantage in obtaining very fine settings.

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either side up. This makes it particularly convenient in dividing circles, transferring angles, drawing oblique lines at right angles to each other, or laying off given angles on each side of a vertical or horizontal line without changing the setting. For laying out tapers and dividing circles and laying out geometrical figures, tables are furnished with the instru-



ment, which give the settings that are necessary. In many instances the protractor takes the place of the ordinary 45-degree and 60-degree triangles, and it is also used as an extension to the T-square when the work is beyond the end of the blade of the square. It is made by Darling, Brown, and Sharpe, manufacturers of fine tools, of Providence, R.I.

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