

amusement or instruction from the pages of this book, but we don't admire the mental equipment of the man who can do so.

—A readable account of the building up and washing away of the narrow sandy islands near Sandy Hook, Long Branch, and Cape May, illustrating similar action that is going on all along our eastern shores, will appear in the *Popular Science Monthly* for September. The article is by F. J. H. Merrill, and is entitled "Barrier Beaches of the Atlantic Coast."

—The Open Court Publishing Company have published "Three Lectures on the Science of Language," by F. Max Müller. They were originally delivered at the Oxford University extension meeting in 1889, and are, of course, of a somewhat elementary character. They give a brief summary of the leading facts about the nature of language, with remarks on the importance of studying it; and are specially designed to awaken an interest in the subject on the part of inquiring minds. The most interesting part of the book to scientific readers will be the passage in which the author discusses the relative merits of the two methods of classifying the races of men, by language and by physiological characteristics. He maintains that physiological classification has proved a failure, and that classification by language must be adopted, though with some reservations. Professor Müller reaffirms his theory of the origin of the Aryans in Central Asia, but without presenting anything new. The concluding paper in the book is a brief account of the earlier thinkers who have held Professor Müller's views as to the identity of language and thought. We may note in conclusion that the book is printed throughout in blue ink.

—D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, will publish in September a "Brief Course in the Elements of Chemistry," by James H. Shepard, professor of chemistry, South Dakota Agricultural College, and chemist to the United States Experiment Station. This book will be on the same plan as the author's "Elements of Inorganic Chemistry." It is not a fragmentary compilation, but gives the

student a concise and comprehensive view of the main formulas of chemical science. The experiments are easily performed and bear directly upon the subjects under consideration, while the apparatus and chemicals required are as inexpensive as thorough work will permit. The book is well adapted to the needs of schools where the time is limited and where the teacher aims to do most of the work, but it will find a warm welcome in schools possessing working laboratories. The carbon compounds are tersely treated, thus giving the student an insight into the fundamentals of organic chemistry.

—The yield of gold in New South Wales in 1889, as shown by the "Annual Report of the Department of Mines," was larger than that for any year since 1883, amounting to over 182 million dollars.

—The United States Steamer "Thetis," Lieut Commander Stockton commanding, was detailed by the Navy Department to cruise, during the summer and autumn of 1889, in Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean. During this cruise, in order to make its results as useful as possible, several of the officers on board the "Thetis" were directed to prepare reports upon subjects connected with the waters and regions visited by the ship, from their observation and from other reliable sources. One of these reports, by John W. Kelly, is on the ethnography of the Eskimos; and another, by Ensign Roger Wells, jr., is an Eskimo vocabulary, prepared almost entirely from information and material furnished by John W. Kelly, who spent three winters among the north-western Eskimos, and who has been engaged for seven years, at various times, in acquiring a knowledge of their language. The manuscripts of these two reports were presented to the Bureau of Education at Washington by Commander Stockton, to whose intelligent foresight the preparation of the reports was due. The Bureau, being charged with the supervision of education in Alaska, and the Commissioner of Education, W. T. Harris, appreciating the

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