

African and the American as complete as possible, it is highly desirable that attention should be paid to the obtaining of information regarding (1) the results of the intermarriage of Indian and negro, the physiology of the offspring of such unions; (2) the social status of the negro among the various Indian tribes, the Indian as a slave-holder, the opinion the negro has of the Indian; (3) the influence of the Indian upon negro, and of the negro upon Indian, mythology and folk-lore.

While there seems little probability of data existing, to any great extent, regarding the linguistic relations of the Indian and the negro, it is reasonable to expect that much relating to their physical anthropology, their social conditions, and their folk-lore, may yet be made known.

HEALTH MATTERS.

Bone Grafting.

Mr. A. G. Miller, in the *Lancet* for Sept. 20, reports the history of a case in which he used decalcified-bone chips successfully to fill up a large cavity in the head of the tibia. In the *New York Medical Journal* it is stated that a piece of the rib of an ox was used, being first scraped and then decalcified in a weak solution of hydrochloric acid. After cleansing by pressure, it was placed for forty-eight hours in a carbolic-acid solution, one to twenty, then removed, and cut into small pieces. During the scraping-out of the cavity in the knee, preparatory to the grafting, a number of small pieces of bone were removed. These were placed in a solution of boric acid for use later in the operation. The cavity was then stuffed with the decalcified-bone shavings, the pieces of fresh bone being added last. The cavity thus filled was about two inches in diameter. Granulation and healing took place rapidly: the only pieces of bone that became necrosed were from the patient's own body. Mr. Miller is convinced, from his observation of this case, that the healing of large bone cavities, the result of injury or disease, is greatly facilitated by stuffing them with decalcified-bone chips; that these are superior to fresh bone; and that fresh bone not only is of no use, but actually hinders the process of granulation.

Recent Saving of Life in Michigan.

In a carefully prepared paper read before the Sanitary Convention at Vicksburg, the proceedings of which are published, Dr. Baker gave official statistics and evidence, which he summarized as follows:—

"The record of the great saving of human life and health in Michigan in recent years is one to which, it seems to me, the State and local boards of health in Michigan can justly 'point with pride.' It is a record of the saving of over one hundred lives per year from small-pox, four hundred lives per year saved from death by scarlet-fever, and nearly six hundred lives per year saved from death by diphtheria,—an aggregate of eleven hundred lives per year, or three lives per day, saved from these three diseases. This is a record which we ask to have examined, and which we are willing to have compared with that of the man who 'made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before.'"

To relieve an Overworked Brain.

A Swiss doctor says that many persons who extend their mental work well into the night, who during the evening follow attentively the programme of a theatre or concert, or who engage evenings in the proceedings of societies or clubs, are awaked in the morning or in the night with headache (*The Sanitary Inspector*). He is particular to say that he does not refer to that headache which our Teutonic brethren designate *Katzenjammer*, that follows certain convivial indulgences. This headache affects many persons who are quite well otherwise, and is due in part to the previous excessive work of the brain, whereby an abnormal flow of blood to that organ is caused, in part to other causes, for example, too great heat of rooms, contamination of the air with

carbonic acid, exhalations from human bodies, and tobacco-smoke.

For a long while the doctor was himself a sufferer from headache of this kind, but of late years has wholly protected himself from it by simple means. When he is obliged to continue his brain work into the evening, or to be out late nights in rooms not well ventilated, instead of going directly to bed, he takes a brisk walk for half an hour or an hour. While taking this tramp he stops now and then and practises lung gymnastics by breathing in and out deeply a few times. When he then goes to bed, he sleeps soundly. Notwithstanding the shortening of the hours of sleep, he awakes with no trace of headache. There exists a clear and well-known physiological reason why this treatment should be effective.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Lecture Association of the University of Pennsylvania announces a special course of illustrated public lectures by Mr. Barr Ferree of New York, on Feb. 12, 17, and 19, on "The Influence of Christianity on the Development of Architecture." These lectures, which will be three in number, will treat of (1) the basilica, the formative period of Christian architecture; (2) the cathedral, the perfected form of Christian architecture; and (3) the monastic orders, the greatest Christian builders.

—The Snow-Shoe Section of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, has arranged a winter excursion to Waterville, N.H., to which members of the club and their friends are invited. The main party will leave Boston, Monday, Feb. 16, by the nine o'clock train from the Lowell Station. Others will leave Boston Thursday evening, spend the night at Plymouth, and join the party at Waterville Friday morning. The return will be on Monday or Tuesday, Feb. 23 or 24. The expense will not exceed \$15. Comfortable rooms with stoves will be provided.

—It is announced in the January "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society" that a competent observer, Mr. J. T. Bent, the explorer of Phœnician remains in the Bahrein Islands, has decided on undertaking an expedition to the mysterious ruins of Zimbabwe or Zimbaoe, in Mashonaland, and other remains in the interior of South Africa, with the object of thoroughly examining the structures and the country in their neighborhood. The expedition has the active co-operation of the British East Africa Company and the Royal Geographical Society, and will be well equipped for geographical as well as archæological survey. It was to leave England at the end of last month.

—Mr. Robert Athelston Marr has resigned his position as assistant in the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, to accept the professorship of civil engineering in the Virginia Military Institute. Mr. Marr was born in Tennessee in 1856, was graduated at the Virginia Military Institute, entered the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1878, and since then has served with distinction in the triangulation and astronomical parties both on this coast and in California and Alaska. The coast survey service has lost an energetic and capable officer, and, while his colleagues will miss him, they wish him every success in his new duties. The vacancy caused by Mr. Marr's resignation has been filled by the promotion of Sub-Assistant Isaac Winston to the grade of assistant. Mr. Winston has for several years past had charge of one of the geodetic levelling parties of the survey.

—Among recent appointments of Johns Hopkins men, we note that of Felix Lengfeld (fellow 1887-88, Ph.D. 1888) as professor of chemistry and assaying in the South Dakota School of Mines; C. W. Emil Miller (A.B. 1882, fellow 1883-85, Ph.D. 1886) as professor of languages, Walther College, St. Louis, Mo.; Augustus T. Murray (fellow 1887-88, Ph.D. 1890) as Professor of Greek, Colorado College; Charles L. Smith (fellow 1887-88, Ph.D. 1889, instructor 1889-91) as professor of history, William Jewell College, Missouri; Edward L. Stevenson (graduate student 1887-88) as instructor in history, Rutgers College; Amos G. Warner (fellow 1886-87, Ph.D. 1888) as general superintendent of charities in the District of Columbia, as provided by the recent congressional appropriation for the district; and William K. Williams (Ph.D.