

only as a step toward something more complete, could not properly be incorporated in the body of the dictionary, Professor Whitney believes that no lexicographer should ignore it. He expresses his opinion in the following vigorous language: "The reformed orthography of the present, made with scientific intent and with a regard for historic and phonetic truth, is more worthy of notice, if a dictionary could discriminate as to worthiness between two sets of facts, than the oftentimes capricious and ignorant orthography of the past. It need not be said in this dictionary that the objections brought on etymological and literary and other grounds against the correction of English spelling are the unthinking expressions of ignorance and prejudice. All English etymologists are in favor of the correction of English spelling, both on etymological grounds and on the higher ground of the great service it will render to national education and international intercourse. It may safely be said that no competent scholar who has really examined the question has come, or could come, to a different conclusion; and it may confidently be predicted that future English dictionaries will be able to recognize to the full, as this dictionary has been able in its own usage to recognize in part, the right of the English vocabulary to be rightly spelled." These principles, as the last sentence quoted intimates, have, as far as possible, been carried out in the dictionary with regard to the spelling of words the orthography of which varies, by the adoption of the simplest or most "phonetic" form; and "The Cen-

tury" is thus the first dictionary to support both by practice and preaching this great movement of philological reason and of common sense.

—The ethnographic parallel between Israelite and Indian, which was published by Colonel Garrick Mallery in the *Popular Science Monthly*, in 1889, has been translated into German, by Dr. Friedrich S. Krauss, the German ethnologist. "Israeliten und Indianer" (Leipzig, Grieben, 1891, pp. 106, 12^c) is the title of the version, which renders the thoughts of the original in good German and in a free and easy style. The preface also contains a biography of the author, who is a member of the Bureau of Ethnology in Washington. The article forcibly refutes the existence of monotheism among the Indians, and none of the languages has any word corresponding to our term God. The differences between the Jewish and the Indian institutions and mode of life are thoroughgoing, but, nevertheless, there are many similarities of striking nature, based on the simplicity of life to be met with with primitive nations, and Mallery has sought everywhere to point out the causes on which they are based.

—The ornamental designs and symbols found on American pottery, implements, objects carved in wood, and other utensils, have been discussed from the genetic and historical standpoint by Professor Alois R. Hein of the Vienna University ("Mäander, Kreuze, Hakenkreuze und urmotivische Wirbelornamente in

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Dec. 5.—R. S. Woodward, Maxwell's Theory of Electrostatics; J. F. Hayford, The Detection by Azimuth Observations of Variations in the Pole or the Vertical; A Recent Check on the Relation between the Metric Units of Length and Mass.

Natural Science Association, Staten Island.

Nov. 14.—Election of officers: president, N. L. Britton; treasurer, Eberhard Faber; recording secretary, C. F. Simons; corresponding secretary, Arthur Hollick; curator, Joseph C. Thompson.

Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston.

Dec. 8.—Rosewell B. Lawrence and Percival Lowell, Bandaian, Miomote, and Matsushima, two papers, descriptive of a trip in North-western Japan.

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— *The Political Science Quarterly* for December opens with an article by Professor A. D. Morse of Amherst College on "The Democratic Party," in its historical origin and its present tasks. Paul L. Ford describes the non-intercourse policy of the colonists in 1774, under "The Association of the First Congress;" Charles B. Spahr, writing of "The Single Tax," combats the practicability of Mr. George's panacea; Professor F. A. Giddings, discussing "Sociology as a University Study," makes suggestions as to the character of the new science; Professor D. G. Ritchie of Oxford contributes valuable material in the "History of the Social Contract Theory;" M. Ostrogovski presents a careful and exhaustive study of "Woman Suffrage in Local Self-Government;" and Dr. Frederic Bancroft, with recent publications as his text, writes sympathetically of "Lincoln and Seward" and critically of "Their Latest Biographers." Some twenty-five books are noticed in the department of reviews, and Professor William A. Dunning brings his "Record of Political Events" down to Nov. 1.

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