

## SCIENCE:

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## CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.—II.

[Edited by D. G. Brinton, M.D., LL.D.]

## Prehistoric European Migrations.

LITTLE by little the seemingly impenetrable veil which shrouded the wars and wanderings of European nations before history began is lifting. Scientific methods undreamed of half a century ago now reveal the secrets of ages too remote to date. We can trace man in western Europe steadily advancing through the development of a continuous culture from the rudest period of chipped implements of stone to an epoch when he learned to polish and bore that material, and finally threw it aside to arm his hand with a blade of glittering bronze.

The continuity of this development is one of the master generalizations from the long labors of Worsaae, Mortillet, and others. It has recently received further solid support in an excellent critical study by Dr. Sophus Müller, entitled "Instruments Tranchants de l'Ancien Age de Pierre," published in the *Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord*. It is especially devoted to the use of the triangular stone celts found abundantly in Denmark. They are shown to be tools, and to belong to the earliest stone age of that portion of the continent.

Neither they nor any of the relics from northern Europe carry us so far back in the past as some from France and the Iberian Peninsula. This fact leaves little room for doubt but that these latter regions were inhabited first. Even there the advent of man must be placed as a post-tertiary event. This is the mature opinion of such authorities as Topinard, Cartailhac, and especially of M. Alexandre Bertrand, whose excellent book, "Nos Origines," has recently appeared in a new edition. M. Bertrand is director of the National Archæological Museum at St. Germain-en-Laye, and a most conscientious student. From his and others' observations it appears that matters went smoothly enough in Europe down to Neolithic times; but then widespread migra-

tions began. More than 1200 years B.C., thinks M. Bertrand, the Ligurians came down from somewhere up north, and conquered portions of the littoral of Spain, Gaul, Italy, and Sicily. The interior of France and the Iberian Peninsula was then peopled by "Iberians." Not far from the date mentioned these were driven westward by inroads of the Celts. He acknowledges, however, that there are no relics positively attributable to either Ligurians or French Iberians; and his theory therefore must be accepted as only one degree less unlikely than the purely gratuitous one of Virchow, who makes out the Ligurians to have been "Turranians."

In recent numbers of the *Globus* and *Ausland*, Karl Penka urges with renewed vigor his theory that Scandinavia was the original home of the Aryan stock; and that not very long before the beginning of our era the whole of central Europe was peopled by Celts. He has an earnest disciple in E. Krause, who lately issued a volume of nigh 700 pages on "Tuisko-Land," his name for Scandinavia, to which, with great wealth of learning, he traces both the myths of Hellas and the simple cults of pristine Rome.

Another ethnologist with his own notions is Dr. Theodore Köppen, librarian of the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg. In a pamphlet reviewed at length in the *Archiv für Anthropologie* (Band xx.) he insists that the Finnic and Aryan linguistic stocks are one in origin; that their ancestral home was somewhere about the region of the middle Volga; that the separation took place into eastern and western branches on the river Don; and that at that time arose the Aryan and Ugro-Finnic divisions. His arguments are principally linguistic, and he lays especial stress on the words for "honey" and "linden bast," which he finds the same in the two stocks. His work is principally interesting as showing the growing tendency among scholars to discard the old theory that the Indo-Europeans began in Asia, in favor of an origin in Europe; but Köppen repeats the familiar error of attributing the theory of the origin of the white race in Europe to Dr. Latham; whereas, long before he mentioned it, it had been urged with clearness by Omalius D'Halloy, the distinguished Belgian anthropologist.

## Retrogressive Culture in Prehistoric Times.

The general law of the continuity of development holds good throughout historic and prehistoric time; but the careful archæologist will always bear in mind that, in both, periods of retrogression have occurred in many localities; and he will not, therefore, assign to relics of man's industry a later date solely on the ground of higher technical perfection. Often a tribe or nation has been conquered or destroyed by one ruder though stronger, and for generations a lower has followed a higher degree of art-produce.

Two or three examples of this in prehistoric times have recently been adduced. Mr. H. Stopes reports in the Proceedings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1890, a curious station in the Thames Valley, where some tribe in the Palæolithic condition had overwhelmed one with Neolithic culture; and not understanding the use of the polished stone implements of the latter had chipped them into rough stone shapes! Not less remarkable was the discovery of the brothers Siret, in the caves and rock-shelters near Almeria, Spain, that the most ancient Neolithic potteries there are distinctly superior in make and ornament to those of later date. Something similar seems to be the case with the interesting series of potteries lately exhumed in the Neolithic station of Latinne, Belgium, by M. de Puydt. They