

The industry, commerce, and social organization of men in the Stone Age are inferred from a variety of evidence, and form the subject of an interesting chapter. The care which they evidently took of the wounded reflects favorably both on their kindness and skill. A chapter on fortifications concludes with an excellent summary of Dr. Schliemann's investigations on the site of ancient Troy.

In handling such a mass of material a few errors naturally creep in. It is not correct to say (p. 21) that "the mounds of North America contain none but copper implements and ornaments," as ornaments of gold, silver, and meteoric iron are not unfrequent. So (on p. 76) the writer says that the ancient canoes "must have been worked by means of oars," and seems surprised too at the absence of rowlocks. Of course, paddles, not oars, were the means of propulsion. It is difficult to perceive what he means by this extraordinary passage on p. 219 — "The most ancient settlements of Malabar contain iron tridents, and Genesius (*sic*) dates their use from before the deluge. It is, therefore, surprising to find that some races remained for an illimitable time ignorant of the way to procure a metal of such great utility." This sounds like eighteenth century science. But these are slight blemishes on a book of singular merit in its composition and unusually beautifully printed and illustrated.

Alaskana, or Alaska in Descriptive and Legendary Poems. By BUSHROD W. JAMES. 368 p. Illustrated. Philadelphia, Porter & Coates.

IF Professor James had not had the unfortunate idea that he is a poet, he would have written a book of considerable interest, as he has visited various localities in Alaska and has read several works about that country. As it is, he gives us 360 solid pages of verses in the meter of "Hiawatha," with "some slight improvements," as the announcement of the publishers modestly puts it, describing the natives, the scenery, the seals, the sunsets, and the stories, which he has by the above means found out about.

It would be unfair not to supply a sample of his poetry, which we select at random from his canto or fyttte on the Alaskan native tribes:—

The Orarians take precedence,
Classed as Esquimaux or Innuits,
Dark Creoles, and sturdy Aleuts —
These hold close along the sea-board,
Claiming nearly all the coast-line
And the islands near adjoining; —
Save where here and there the Indians
Have and hold small coast possessions
Which they won by force or cunning.

Really, was it worth while to put capital letters at the head of these lines? And are there people who will read 360 pages of such? If so, human nature has certain qualities of patience or kindness for which we did not give it sufficient credit.

There are a number of photogravures in the volume, very nicely done, and, as far as type and paper go, it is a creditable specimen of the publisher's taste, and looks as if it was intended to be a "Holiday book."

Experiments Arranged for Students in General Chemistry. By EDGAR F. SMITH and HARRY F. KELLAR. Philadelphia, T. Blakiston, Son & Co. 8°. 57 p., with alternate leaves blank for notes.

THIS series of exercises, based on the authors' experience with their own classes, is intended to accompany any convenient textbook of inorganic chemistry; but reference is made to that of Richter. Beginning with fundamental operations (as with blow-pipe, glass tubing, balance, and graduates) and general principles (as the difference between chemical and physical change) the course proceeds to the study of hydrogen and other non-metals in Part I., followed by the metals in Part II. Quantitative relations are well presented in the experimental work and stoichiometrical

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Philosophical Society, Washington.

Nov. 12.—J. P. Iddings, Geology of the Crazy Mountains; H. W. Turner, Lavas of Mount Ingalls; W. H. Dall, Dates of Publication of Conrad's Monographs of Tertiary Fossils.

Anthropological Society, Washington.

Nov. 15.—Warren K. Moorehead, Xenia, O., Singular Copper Objects from Ancient Mounds in Ohio; James Mooney, Lester F. Ward, W. H. Holmes, W. Hallet Phillips, W. H. Babcock, and Frank Baker, Geographic Nomenclature of the District and Vicinity, a Symposium.

Society of Natural History, Boston.

Nov. 16.—Warren Upham, The Origin of Drumlins; Professors Shaler and Davis, On the Origin of Drumlins.

THE Civil Service Commission will hold examinations on Nov. 29 to fill two vacancies in the Quartermaster-General's Office, one in the position of assistant civil engineer, at a salary of \$1,200, the other in the position of architectural draftsman, at a salary of \$1,400. An application blank and information as to the subjects of the examination may be obtained of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C.

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problems, as in determining the *H*-equivalent of zinc, the density of *Cl*, eudiometric combustion of methans, etc.

Methods of Gas Analysis. By DR. WALTHER HEMPEL. Macmillan & Co. 399 p. \$1.90.

THIS standard work was translated by Professor L. M. Dennis with the personal co-operation of the author. Part I. discusses general methods, including the collection of samples, the use of gas burettes and pipettes, purification of mercury, and absorption apparatus; Part II. deals with special methods for the several elementary and compound gases; while Part III. presents the practical applications of furnace gases, illuminating gas, the sulphuric acid industry, the atmosphere, elementary analysis, and the heating power of fuel. The reputation of the author is guarantee for the value of this new volume to chemists interested in his lines of work.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

A NEW edition of the "New Elementary Algebra," by Charles Davies, LL.D., edited by Professor Van Amringe of Columbia College, has been issued by the American Book Co. This work, it seems unnecessary to say, so well known it is, is designed to supply a connecting-link between arithmetic and algebra, to indicate the unity of the methods, and to conduct the pupil from the arithmetical processes to the more abstract methods of analysis by simple and easy gradations, and to serve as an introduction to more advanced works on the subject. The present edition has incorporated in it such emendations as the progress of educational science has suggested.

— The American Book Company have just published the "Standard Arithmetic," embracing a complete course for schools and academies, by William J. Milne, Ph.D., LL.D., president of the New York State Normal College at Albany. Recognizing the fact that, aside from the general knowledge of arithmetic

necessary to all intelligent persons, there are special applications of this branch of mathematics that call for special training on the part of the student, the author has prepared this work with a view to meeting such requirements. Provision is made to furnish ample practice, for instance, for the student who desires merely to become a rapid and accurate accountant, as well as for the one who prefers the training which cultivates the reasoning powers at the expense of practical expertness in the use of numbers. The scope of the work is sufficiently comprehensive to meet the demands of even the most advanced school.

— "Nature Study for the Common Schools" is the title of a neat volume of about 450 pages from the press of Henry Holt & Co. It is the work of Wilbur S. Jackman, A.B., teacher of natural science in the Cook County Normal School, Chicago, and is intended to be a guide for teachers in the common schools, who wish their pupils to pursue an adequate and symmetrical course in natural science. The plan adopted is based upon what the author believes to be the proper interpretation of the character of the knowledge that the average child may be readily induced to acquire. Instead of endeavoring to give the pupil a thorough knowledge of a few animals and plants, an effort is made to give him some knowledge of everything with which he comes into contact; this knowledge, of course, once acquired to serve both as foundation for and incentive to further acquisitions in the same general direction. The volume, it may be well to add, is written for the teacher, not for the pupil.

— At the October meeting of the Agassiz Club at Corvallis, Oregon, a society recently formed for the discussion of scientific subjects, Professor H. T. French exhibited some clover growing in a root-cage, and showing nitrogen nodules on the roots; Professor Craig, some alfalfa infected with dodder, and Professor Washburn, a new insect-breeding cage. The paper of the evening was by Mr. Thomas Jeffreys, and was entitled "What constitutes American citizenship?"

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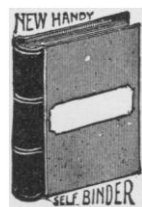
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