

gascar. They present frequent cases of classical hysterical attack and occasional epidemics of choreo-mania, affecting both sexes. A negress of the Soudan was lately a patient in the celebrated clinic of Dr. Charcot, in Paris, and displayed the symptoms characteristic of neurosis. Civilization, so far from increasing this class of maladies, is one of the most efficient agents in reducing them in number and severity. When it is freed from certain elements not essential to it, especially religious excitement and competitive anxieties, it acts decidedly as a preventive.

Recent Contributions to American Linguistics.

The limited number of students who interest themselves in the native American languages will welcome the appearance of another of Mr. J. C. Pilling's most excellent bibliographies, this time the "Bibliography of the Athapascan Languages," a work of 125 large octavo double-columned pages, every page testifying to his unbounded industry and model accuracy. I lately showed one of his bibliographies to a distinguished professor of classical archæology, who assured me that in his own much more widely cultivated field there is no bibliographical work done equal to this of Mr. Pilling's.

The Count de Charencey, now probably the most accomplished Maya scholar in Europe, has published at Alençon a Maya translation by Father Ruz of Ripalda's "Catechismo y Doctrina." This was well worth doing, but students of the language should be warned that Father Ruz wrote a Maya of his own manufacture, having "improved" the language so much that the natives scarcely recognized it.

A most valuable addition to Mexican linguistics is a "Ligero Estudio sobre la Lengua Mazateca," by the Licentiate Francisco Belmar, published at Oaxaca this year. The only previous publication on this language was a short paper of my own in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society.

M. Raoul de la Grasserie, favorably known from previous careful studies in American linguistics, has issued an "Essai d'une Grammaire et d'un Vocabulaire de la Langue Baniva," one of the Arawack dialects of South America.

Through the kindness of Mr. Wilberforce Eames, librarian of the Lenox Library, I have been enabled to print in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society an abstract of a grammar of the Rio Napo dialects, drawn from a manuscript of the last century now in that collection. These dialects belong to the Betoya stock, of which we have had almost no grammatical material.

The already rich literature of the Tupi has received a valuable addition by the reprinting of Father Paulo Restivo's "Arte de la Lengua Guarani," at Stuttgart, under the competent care of Dr. Christian Frederic Seybold. It is particularly valuable for the very full list of particles, with their use and meaning. Dr. Seybold hopes in the future to bring out new editions of the exceedingly rare "Explicacion de el Catecismo en Lengua Guarani," of Nicolas Yapaguay, and the "Katecismo Indico da Lingua Kariris," of Father Bernard de Nantes.

Polynesian Ethnology.

The Polynesian Society, whose headquarters are at Wellington, New Zealand, commenced this year the publication of a quarterly journal devoted to the ethnology, philology, history, and antiquities of Polynesia. The first two numbers contain a collection of generally excellent articles, several of which are printed in the dialects of the islands, with translations. One of some length on the races and prehistoric occupation of the Philippines is a collation from a number of printed sources, not adding new material to our knowledge of the subject. An article on the inscriptions of Easter Island, by Dr. A. Carroll, designed to present translations of the inscribed slabs, is singularly unscientific and out of place. What is worse, he announces other translations in prospect, which he professes to read through the medium of ten different American languages! This is enough, or should be enough, to secure the non-publication of his paper by any learned society.

A number of lists of ancestors, native genealogies, are given.

In some instances these extend for a hundred generations, the children being carefully taught to repeat them accurately. The length of a generation is estimated at about twenty years, so a maximum of two thousand years would be covered by these records.

The Aryan Question.

This question, which, like Banquo's ghost, "will not down," came prominently forward at the last meeting of the German Anthropological Society, held during the first week of August in Ulm.

Dr. Von Luschan took the opportunity to make an onslaught on Professor Penka's well-known hypothesis that Scandinavia was the original home of the European race. The trouble is, that at a time when we know a large part of Europe was well peopled, Scandinavia was covered with a vast glacier; and no evidence that its soil was occupied during the "Old Stone Age" has yet been adduced. This should be enough to suppress Penka.

The distinguished craniologist, Professor Kollmann of Basel, declared on the strength of skull-forms that there must have lived in Europe in neolithic times at least three, if not four, "autochthonous" races, which gradually intermingled and, by this blending of powers, gave rise to that superior intelligence which laid the foundation of European culture and assured the predominance of the white race of that continent in the later history of the world. Certain it is that neither he nor any other craniologist has been able to define either any European or any Aryan "type" of skull; and if the general theory of the cranial type is to be saved at all, it must be by some such *ex post facto* hypothesis as this.

The next meeting of the society will be held next August in Hannover.

Ethnology of the Eskimos.

A clear and pleasant account of the Eskimos appears in recent numbers of *Das Ausland*, from the pen of Fridhjof Nansen, the celebrated explorer of Greenland.

From their close similarity wherever found, and from the slight differences in their dialects, he believes them to have developed from some small and homogeneous stem in comparatively recent times and to have spread along the coasts of the icy sea. He expresses some doubt as to whether they occupied the southern extremity of Greenland when it was first discovered by the Northmen. The point from which they spread he believes to have been somewhere on the shores of Behring Sea or Behring Straits. In this he differs from Dr. Rink, who places their earliest assignable abode in the interior of Alaska, and still further from Mr. Murdoch, who, with greater probability, would locate it about Hudson Bay.

Nansen's description of the appearance, habits, and arts of the East Coast Eskimos is both amusing and instructive. He found them, in spite of many nasty habits, attractive in character and of good mental ability — all the better, the less they had been subjected to the influence of European instruction and religion. One of their curious superstitions is that they will not touch their hair, in the care of which they take great pride, with any object made of iron, not even to trim it. This recalls similar objections to that metal in the rites of ancient Rome and Egypt. Physically he describes them as a well-made race, quite of the average European height, the young women sometimes good-looking. The general tone of his article is highly favorable to the stock.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A MEETING was held recently at the State Capitol, Concord, N.H., upon the call of the Forestry Commission, to see what action is desirable toward the preservation of the forests among the mountains, and at the head-waters of the principal rivers. The Appalachian Mountain Club was represented by delegates, prominent citizens of New Hampshire were present, and much interest was manifested. The meeting formulated certain propositions indicating desirable laws to be secured from the incoming Legislature. It is apparent, however, that public discussion is necessary to find out what action is desirable and favorable, and to

arouse public sentiment sufficiently to bring about valuable results. The Boston *Herald* has started a fund to enable the Commissioners to prosecute this work. The Commissioners are all members of the Appalachian Mountain Club: Hon. Joseph B. Walker of Concord, Hon. G. Byron Chandler of Manchester, and Rev. J. B. Harrison of Franklin Falls. The Council of the Club has appropriated \$25, and individual members have already subscribed to the *Herald* fund. The Council has appointed a committee, consisting of Rosewell B. Lawrence, 53 State Street, room 518, and Walter R. Davis, 121 Devonshire Street, Boston, to receive contributions from members, the contributions to be used at the discretion of the Council as an addition to the *Herald* fund, or to be expended by the Council itself in connection with the matter of the preservation of the forests.

— At the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Association of Officers of Colleges in New England, held at Williams College, Nov. 3-5, 1892, it was voted that the following memorandum be furnished to all educational journals for publication, but with the declaration that this action of the association does not commit any college faculty to the recommendations made in the memorandum: The Association of Officers of Colleges in New England, impressed with the real unity of interest and the need of mutual sympathy and help throughout the different grades of public education, invites the attention of the public to the following changes which, without insisting upon details, it recommends for gradual adoption in the programme of New England grammar schools. Art. 1. The introduction of elementary natural history into the earlier years of the programme as a substantial subject, to be taught by demonstrations and practical exercises rather than from books. 2. The introduction of elementary physics into the later years of the programme as a substantial subject, to be taught by the experimental or laboratory method, and to include exact weighing and measuring by the pupils themselves. 3. The introduction of elementary algebra at an age not later than twelve years. 4. The introduction of elementary plane geometry at an age not later than thirteen years. 5. The offering of opportunity to study French, or German, or Latin, or any two of these languages from and after the age of ten years. 6. The increase of attention in all class-room exercises in every study to the correct and facile use of the English language. In order to make room in the programme for these new subjects, the association recommends that the time allotted to arithmetic, geography, and English grammar be reduced to whatever extent may be necessary. The association makes these recommendations in the interest of the public school system as a whole; but most of them are offered more particularly in the interest of those children whose education is not to be continued beyond the grammar school.

— An interesting experiment in naturalization, namely, the transfer of living lobsters (*Homarus vulgaris*) from England to New Zealand, has just been crowned with success. The fitting-up of steamers with refrigerating chambers for the carriage of frozen meat from New Zealand to the Mother Country, has enabled experiments to be carried out, with every prospect of success, which were formerly considered almost impossible of fulfilment. Some years ago humble-bees were by this means successfully carried to the island colony, where they have increased amazingly, and from whence they have since been carried to Australia and Tasmania. Shipments of salmon ova are likewise now made almost without loss. The latest experiment, the carrying out of live lobsters, has also been successfully accomplished. This result is due to Mr. Purvis, chief engineer of the steamship "Ionic," who has taken great interest throughout in this work. An attempt was made last year by the same gentleman, at the instance of the Otago Acclimatization Society, who were aided in their efforts by Mr. John Ewing of London and Dr. Cunningham of the Plymouth Biological Station. The attempt, however, failed almost at the outset. Tanks were constructed on board the steamer, and stocked with lobsters, but within a few days after starting all the crustaceans died. The construction of the tanks was probably faulty. On the last outward trip of the steamer, Mr. Ewing obtained a

dozen fine specimens of lobsters, and handed them over to Mr. Purvis, who safely conveyed nine of them to their destination. These animals, four males and five females, were liberated on a rock-built mole at the entrance to Otago Harbor, where they are likely to thrive, and from whence they will no doubt spread widely. The coast-line, both north and south, is rocky, and is eminently suited for crustaceans. At present it is tenanted by a large crayfish (*Palinurus*), and it will be an interesting problem to see how the introduced animal will thrive. The crayfish is strongly armed defensively with a strong carapace and stout spiny prominences on its front, and on the anterior limbs. It is extremely common on the coast. But there are no crustaceans with the formidable chelæ of the lobster, and it will most probably be able to more than hold its own. This first shipment is certain to be followed by others, and it is almost safe to predict that in a few years frozen lobsters will form one of the articles of export from New Zealand.

— The fifth annual meeting of the Geological Society of America will, by invitation of the Logan Club of the Canadian Geological Survey, and the Royal Society of Canada, be held in Ottawa, in the House of Commons building. The society will be called to order at 10 o'clock A.M., Wednesday, Dec. 29. An address of welcome will be given by his Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada, with a response by the president. The headquarters will be at the Russell House.

— The eleventh annual meeting of the American Society of Anatomists will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Dec. 27, 28, and 29; the Society of Morphologists will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Dec. 27 and 28; and the Society of Physiologists will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 28; all at Princeton, N.J. The papers, so far as announced, are: C. Hart Merriam, The Death-Valley Expedition; Reports upon Marine Biological Laboratories; John A. Rider, University of Pennsylvania, The Sea Isle Laboratory; E. A. Andrews, Johns Hopkins University, A Marine Station in Jamaica; D. Bashford Dean, Columbia College, The Marine Laboratories of Europe; C. O. Whitman, University of Chicago, The Outlook for a Marine Observatory at Woods Holl; Endowment of the American Table at Naples, C. W. Stiles; Botanical Explorations in Florida, W. P. Wilson; The Summer Work of the U. S. Fish Commission Schooner "Grampus," William Libbey, Jr.; Expeditions of the American Museum of Natural History into New Mexico, Wyoming, and Dakota, J. L. Wortman; Annual Discussion, What were the Former Areas and Relations of the American Continent, as Determined by Faunal and Floral Distribution? Introduction and Evidences from Past and Present Distribution of Mammals, W. B. Scott; Evidence from Past and Present Distribution of Reptiles, George Baur; Evidence from Distribution of Birds, J. A. Allen; Evidence from Distribution of Plants, N. L. Britton.

— An International Meteorological Congress, to form one of the many scientific gatherings in Chicago next year while the World's Fair is in progress, is in contemplation; and an Advisory Council of the World's Congress Auxiliary, to arrange for the same, has been appointed. It includes the heads of the national weather bureaus, American and foreign, the chiefs of the State services in this country, and a few other men who have been conspicuously identified with weather science. Very appropriately, Professor Mark W. Harrington, chief of the Weather Bureau, has been designated as chairman of this council. The congress will sit during the week beginning Aug. 21, 1893; and the following classification of topics for discussion has been made: (a) Instruments and methods of observation; (b) theoretical meteorology, including cyclones and secondary storms; (c) climatology; (d) agricultural and hygienic meteorology; (e) marine meteorology; (f) government weather service, including weather telegraphy, predictions, verifications, special thunder-storm and other service; (g) terrestrial magnetism and atmospheric electricity, including magnetic storms, cosmic-magnetic fields, magnetic and electric instruments, lightning and aurora; (h) geologic climate, including the glacial age, quaternary changes in climate, and the testimony of flora and fauna; and (i) meteorologic literature.