

Mr. Galton's "Finger Prints" is a volume made up of various essays and observations, which have engaged him for several years, on the external anatomy of the papillary ridges on the extremities of the thumb and fingers. He has found that they remain singularly individual in character through long periods of life, and thus may serve for purposes of identification. They are slightly hereditary and have little or no ethnic value. They do not appear to be correlated to mental ability, temperament, or character. The volume as a whole presents an admirable model of a closely scientific investigation of a somatologic point; and perhaps is as valuable in this respect as for any definite results reached.

*The Foot-Path Way.* By BRADFORD TORREY. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co.

STUDENTS of living things have not inaptly been divided into two general classes, naturalists and biologists; the former including Englishmen like Gilbert White, Thomas Edward, and Richard Jefferies, and Americans like Thoreau, Burroughs, and Bradford Torrey, who delight in studying the actions of living beings on their native heath, in the coppice beside the brook, or amid the silence of the forest. Among the biologists are found the great majority of modern students whose days are spent in the laboratory, and who care little for a living organism until it has been killed, dissected, frozen, and cut into infinitesimal slices by the microtome. Without attempting to discuss the relative merits of these two methods, it will readily be admitted that the naturalists can put into their writings much more of that humanitarian interest which gives the charm to literature. Readers of Mr. Bradford Torrey's "Birds in the Bush" and "A Rambler's Lease" will know what to expect in wandering with him along the present "Foot-Path Way." They are not likely to be disappointed. Besides glimpses of rare warblers and individual peculiarities of common birds, they will now and then see a beautiful landscape, or hear the murmur of a mountain brook,

while mingled with all they will find much delightful philosophy. They will go to beautiful Franconia in June to learn

"How good life is at its best! And in such  
'charmed days,  
When the genius of God doth flow,'

what care we for science or the objects of science.—for grosbeak or crossbill (may the birds forgive me!) or the latest novelties in willows? I am often where fine music is played, and never without being interested; as men say, I am pleased. But at the twentieth time, it may be, something touches my ears, and I hear the music within the music; and, for the hour, I am at heaven's gate. So it is with our appreciation of natural beauty. We are always in its presence, but only on rare occasions are our eyes appointed to see it."

Besides June in Franconia, there are papers on December Out-of-Doors, Dyer's Hollow, Five Days on Mount Mansfield, A Widow and Twins, A Male Ruby-Throat, Robin Roosts, The Passing of the Birds, A Great Blue Heron. Flowers and Folks and the Weymouth Pine. The humming-bird sketches (A Widow and Twins and A Male Ruby-Throat) are peculiarly interesting, while those on The Robin Roosts and The Passing of the Birds are full of fascinating bird news.

*The Testimony of Tradition.* By DAVID MACRITCHIE. London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co. 204 p. Illustrated.

THE writer of this volume attempts to show that the ancient Picts of Scotland were of Mongolian descent, and had come across the sea from Norway. That, so far as we know, there never were any Finns in Norway about Bergen, whence the "Finmen" are said to have come, does not trouble Mr. MacRitchie. He merely remarks that "it may be assumed" that there were (p. 35). He lays much stress on the skin boats which these early seafarers used. But the Welsh used also just such, as well as many other nations. He makes no attempt to trace any of the ancient Pictish names to Finnish radicals, though he hints that it could be done.

#### CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

##### Philosophical Society, Washington.

Feb. 4. — R. S. Woodward, Abstract and Discussion of Paper Read at Last Meeting; F. L. O Wadsworth, Method of Determination of the Metre in Terms of a Wave-Length of Light; Waldeman Lindgren, Two Neocene Rivers of California; H. W. Turner, Remarks on the Geology of Calaveras County, California.

## THE MODERN MALADY; or, Sufferers from 'Nerves.'

An introduction to public consideration, from a non-medical point of view, of a condition of ill-health which is increasingly prevalent in all ranks of society. In the first part of this work the author dwells on the errors in our mode of treating Neurasthenia, consequent on the wide ignorance of the subject which still prevails; in the second part, attention is drawn to the principal causes of the malady. The allegory forming the Introduction to Part I. gives a brief history of nervous exhaustion and the modes of treatment which have at various times been thought suitable to this most painful and trying disease.

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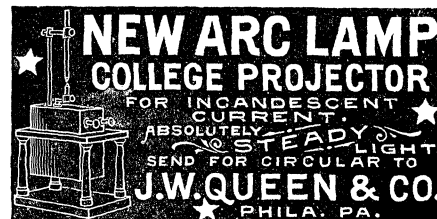
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