

As for the "mathematical probability" referred to by Dr. Dall, it is illusory. We find "interwoven chains of customs and belief" of the most seemingly fanciful and artificial character in nations so remote that the theory of transmission is impossible—such as Niblack shows between New Zealanders and Haidahs, or as Morgan adduced between Iroquoian and Dravidian tribes. These do not depend on transmission, nor yet on chance, but on the unalterable principles of human psychical development, which proceeds under fixed laws, operates largely on the same or similar materials, and produces identical or analogous results.

In conclusion, I repeat what I have said more than once before, that I challenge any one to cite a single American language showing clear traces of Asiatic or any other foreign influence; or a single native American art or industry obviously traceable to foreign culture.

Philadelphia, April 5.

D. G. BRINTON.

Auroras.

SINCE 1572 there have been 106 auroras seen as far south as the Mediterranean in Europe or Virginia in this country, and exhibiting features constituting displays of the first magnitude. In making up this list, the records consulted have been sufficiently complete to insure that very few, if any, displays, having the geographical extent indicated, have been omitted. The list comprises, practically, all the really great auroras during the past 420 years, few, if any, of which would have failed to be visible even in full moonlight or strong twilight. It is a very curious fact, that very few of these splendid displays reported from large numbers of localities and attracting the attention of even the most indifferent, fall near the solstices, while they are most numerous near the equinoxes. This peculiarity has long been known, but that the distribution is real and not factitious, depending upon twilight in the summer and cloudiness in the winter, is best shown by admitting only those auroras which are certainly

on a sufficiently grand scale to insure that they will without fail be seen and widely reported. The monthly distribution of the displays belonging assuredly to this class during the past 420 years, is as follows:

January.....	6
February.....	17
March.....	14
April.....	8
May.....	3
June.....	0
July.....	4
August.....	4
September.....	14
October.....	21
November.....	12
December.....	3

Total..... 106

M. A. VEEDER.

Lyons. N.Y.

The Palæolithic Man Once More.

IN the first number of the new *Journal of Geology*, published under the auspices of the University of Chicago, Mr. W. H. Holmes, in the capacity of co-editor in "Archeologic Geology," has given to the world a long and labored article, in which he endeavors to demonstrate that because he has failed to find any evidence of the existence of the palæolithic man in the Trenton gravels, therefore no such evidence has ever been found by any one else. In his characteristic style he designates as "gravel searchers, unacquainted with the nature of the object collected and discovered, and little skilled in the observation of the phenomena by means of which all questions of age must be determined," several of the foremost men of science of our time, who claim to have discovered such evidence there. As he also makes

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Anthropological Society, Washington.

Apr. 11.—Frank Hamilton Cushing, Zuni Song and Dance.

Biological Society, Washington.

Apr. 8.—J. W. Chickering, The Botanical Landscape; Frederick V. Coville, Characteristics and Adaptations of a Desert Flora; C. W. Stiles, Notes on Parasites,—the Cause of "Measly Duck," with Microscopic Demonstration; R. R. Gurley, Natural Selection as Exemplified by the Cackling of Hens.

Geological Society, Washington.

Apr. 12.—Symposium—Subject: The Age of the Earth, taking as a basis for discussion the article by Mr. Clarence King in the *American Journal of Science* for January, 1893. The discussion was opened by Mr. Gilbert, and many others participated.

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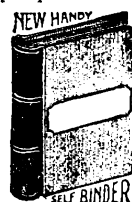
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