

the Somali and Galla are much the most profoundly semitized, the Saho and Afar (Danakil) much less so. All these dialects stand in close relationship to the geographical features of the country, showing that they originated on the spot. They have both influenced, and been influenced by, the Amharic (Ethiopic) Semitic stock, and to some extent by the Soudanese tongues. *Pari passu* with the language, the blood of the tribes has suffered from this intermixture.

The extreme interest of these conclusions cannot but impress all Semitic and Egyptologic students.

Fossil Human Remains in South America.

The critical scrutiny of the evidence of paleolithic man in North America, which has lately occupied considerable attention, has perhaps been pushed too far. When, as in the Ohio field, discoveries have been made which cannot be gainsaid, it is scarcely fair to prefer every conceivable explanation of them to the simplest one—that the articles were originally deposited where found.

Meanwhile, in South America, some interesting facts are communicated by Mr. Roth, of Buenos Ayres, to Professor Kollmann, and published by him in the *Mittheilungen aus dem Anatomischen Institut*, at Basel. Mr. Roth was the discoverer of the skull of "Pontimelo," which, by the way, he informs us is a typographical error for "Fontizuelos." This skull, together with some other human bones, was found under the carapace of a glyptodon of extinct species, and Mr. Roth argues that the man and the animal were contemporaries. He does not seem to have contemplated the possibility that men of later times may have found the carapace, and with it piously covered the remains of one of their dead. He asserts, however, that Döring, Burmeister, Ameghino, Moreno, and other leading geologists of the Argentine Republic, have acknowledged the contemporaneity of man and the glyptodon.

Roth cites a number of instances where human remains have been found in the upper Pampas formation. In 1887, he unearthed for the first time some in the middle Pampas strata; and, in the same, both he and others have found numerous pieces of pottery, an artificial shell-heap, and occasional silex points of human workmanship. He insists that there is no room for doubt that whenever the so-called "Pampeano Intermediar" was deposited, man was then living there. This time, if Ihering is right (see my note in *Science*, April 14), was in Pliocene (tertiary) days.

Professor Kollmann brings this into connection with other early finds in South America, and reaches the conclusion: "That the discoveries of ancient human remains in America prove that the various American races inhabited their continent quite as remote in time as did those of Europe and Asia, their respective localities;" which expression leads to the inference that he is a polygenist, or, else, seeks the cradle of the species outside these three continents.

The Ethnic Origin of the Jews.

In spite of the persistency of the typical Jewish physiognomy, it is proved by history that the Jews are far from a pure Semitic strain. They lived among and constantly intermarried with the Canaanites, Amorites, Philistines and true Hittites, none of whom were of Semitic blood; they bought Greek concubines, called in the Bible "pilegsh"; and, in turn, the males of many of the tribes around them, lured by the ever famous and still maintained beauty of the Jewish maidens, were quite willing to vow, "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." In the Talmud these are called "proselytes of the King's table," and they were accorded honorable positions.

Such conversions by no means ceased with the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus. In the eighth century, Bulan, Prince of the Chasars, with all his people, embraced Judaism, and the repeated edicts in medieval time forbidding marriages between Christians and Jews can only be explained because such unions led the former to the faith of the latter.

At present, in all parts of the world, the prevailing anatomical type of the Jew is that of the brunette, with curly dark hair, dark eyes, often olive complexion, the skull long—dolichocephalic—the face rather narrow. This holds good for about ninety per cent of them; but nearly everywhere the remaining ten per cent—in Germany, over eleven per cent—are blondes, with light hair and eyes and round skulls—brachycephalic. In a much smaller percentage, the type is characteristically Mongolian, especially in the women, and about an equal number present negroid features. These aberrations from the ethnic type must be regarded as reversions through heredity to some of the numerous non-Semitic strains, which have, as above intimated, from time to time modified the pure current of Hebraic blood. That in spite of the number and extent of these admixtures the type has been preserved on the whole with such fidelity from the earliest Babylonian epoch, is a remarkable lesson in anthropology.

An interesting discussion of the whole question by Von Luschan, Virchow and Alsberg may be found in the *Correspondenz-Blatt der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Anthropologie*, October, 1892. It effectually disposes of the absurd theory of Professor Gerland, of Strasburg, that the Semitic stock is a derivative from the African negro—a theory which can only be explained by an anomalous degree of anti-Semitism obscuring his intellectual faculties.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A MEMBER of the Anthropological Society of Washington has placed in the hands of the treasurer of the society a sum of money to be awarded in prizes for the clearest statements of the elements that go to make up the most useful citizen of the United States, regardless of occupation. The donation has been accepted and the society has provided for the award of the following prizes during the present year (1893) under the following conditions: Two prizes will be awarded for the best essays on the subject specified above, viz.: A first prize of \$150 for the best essay, and a second prize of \$75 for the second best essay among those found worthy by the commissioners of award. These prizes are open to all competitors in all countries. Essays offered in competition for the prizes shall not exceed 3,000 words in length, and all essays offered shall thereby become the property of the Anthropological Society of Washington, the design being to publish the essays, at the discretion of the Board of Managers, in the official organ of the society, the *American Anthropologist*, giving due credit to the several authors. Each essay should bear a pseudonym or number, and should be accompanied by a sealed envelope bearing the same pseudonym or number, and containing the name and address of the competitor; and the identity of competitors shall not in any way be made known to the Commissioners of Award. Essays must be typewritten or printed, and must be submitted not later than November 1, 1893. While it is not proposed by the society to limit the scope of the discussion, and while each essay will be considered on its merits by the Commissioners of Award, it is suggested, in view of the character of the society and the wishes of the donor of the prize fund, that the treatment be scientific, and that the potential citizen be considered (1) from the point of view of anthropology in general, including heredity, anthropometry, viability, physiological psychology, etc.; (2) from the point of view of personal characteristics and habits, such as care of the body, mental traits, manual skill, sense training and specialization, and all-around manhood; and (3) from the ethical point of view, including self-control, humanity, domesticity, charity, prudence, energy, *esprit de corps*, patriotism, etc. The essays offered in competition for the Citizenship Prizes of the Anthropological Society of Washington will be submitted, on or about November 2, 1893, to five commissioners of award, including, it is proposed, one anthropologist, one jurist, one statesman, one educator, and one other not yet specified, all of national reputation, of whom at least one and not more than two shall be members of the society; and the award shall be made in accordance with the findings of these commissioners. Essays submitted in competition for the prizes should be delivered not later than November 1, 1893, to the secretary of the Board of Managers of the Society, Mr. Weston Flint, No. 1101 K street, N. W., Washington, D. C., to whom all correspondence relating to the prizes should be addressed.