

This apparently furnishes, at least, a straw pointing in the direction I have been moving in my study of the Maya hieroglyphs.

Washington, D.C., July 15.

#### Historical Statements in Century Dictionary Contradicted by Other Authorities.

Napier's rods (or bones), a contrivance commonly attributed to John Napier (1550-1617), but in fact described in the Arithmetic of Oronce Finée (1532).—*Century Dictionary* under *rod*.

Die erste Beschreibung gab Nefer in seiner Rabbologia (Edinburg, 1617).—*Vorlesungen über Geschichte der Mathematik*, von Moritz Cantor, zweiter Band, Seite 660.

The earliest known writers on the subject (magic squares) were Arabians, among whom these squares were used as amulets.—*Century Dictionary*, under *magic*.

The earliest known writer on the subject was Emanuel Moscopulus, a Greek, who lived in the fourth or fifth century, and whose manuscript is preserved in the National Library at Paris.—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, under *magic squares*.

These seem to me to be contradictions. I should be glad to see the truth in regard to these historical facts plainly set forth by a reader of *Science*.

GEO. A. MILLER.

Eureka College, Eureka, Ill., July 24.

#### The Cambodian Khmers.

OWING to some irregularity in the postal delivery I have only just received *Science* for June 9, else I should have sooner asked leave to put in a claim of priority in connection with Dr. Maurel's new views regarding the "Aryan" origin of the Khmers, referred to by Dr. Brinton in that issue. Personally I avoid the expression "Aryan or Indo-European stock" as confusing and applicable far more to linguistic than to ethnical groups. But if "Caucasian," used in Blumenbach's sense, be substituted for

"Aryan" Dr. Brinton will find, by consulting the Transactions of the British Association for 1879, that fourteen years ago I conclusively showed that the Khmers should be grouped not with the surrounding Mongolic, but with the Caucasian division of mankind. In the "Monograph on the Relations of the Indo-Chinese and Inter-Oceanic Races and Languages," read before the association, and again before the Anthropological Institute and printed in the journal of that society for February, 1880, and issued separately by Trübner at same date, I argued *generally* that "both of the great Asiatic types conventionally known as Caucasian and Mongolian, have from prehistoric times occupied the Indo-Chinese peninsula," and *particularly* that here the Caucasian stock is represented by the widespread Khmer group, that is to say, the Cambodians proper, the Kuys or Khmerdom ("original Khmers"), as the Cambodians call them, the Stiengs, Charays, Chams and many others, some still in the tribal state, some long civilized or semi-civilized. It is the civilized that mainly engage Dr. Maurel's attention, and that he rightly regards as Aryans (read Caucasians), but wrongly supposes to have migrated in comparatively recent times from India to Indo-China, "bringing with them the Aryan culture of that country as proved by the stately ruins of Ang-Kok (read Ongkor-Vaht)." There was no such migration "probably about the third or fourth century of the Christian era," for the Khmers are not recent arrivals, but the true aborigines, as shown by the presence of the Khmerdom and the kindred wild tribes, and also by their untuned polysyllabic speech, radically distinct both from the Indo-Chinese toned monosyllabic group and from the Indic (Sanskritic) branch of the Aryan, but closely allied to the untuned polysyllabic Malayo-Polynesian linguistic family.

This point, which I think I have established to the satisfaction of most ethnologists and philologists (Professor Sayce amongst others), is of far-reaching consequence. It affords the solution of the extremely difficult problem connected with the presence of Logan's "Indonesians," my Caucasians, side by side or intermin-

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