

particulars of a curious Zuni dramatic ceremonial; and Dr. Cyrus Alder reviewing museum collections made to illustrate religious history and ceremonies.

Thursday morning was assigned to folk-lore, and papers were presented by Mr. W. W. Newell on ritual regarded as a dramatization of myth; by Dr. Franz Boas on the ritual of the Kwakiutl Indians; by Mr. J. Walter Fewkes on Tusayan ceremonial dramatization; and by Mr. George Kunz on the folk-lore of precious stones. The afternoon was devoted to the collections of American archaeology in the anthropological building under the care of Professor F. W. Putnam, Chief of the Department, who delivered the opening address on the subject. He was followed by Mr. Frank Cushing on the "cliff-dwellers"; by Mrs. Zelia Nuttall on Mexican archaeology; by Mr. G. A. Dorsey on South American archaeology; and by Mr. E. Volk on cache-finds from ancient village sites in New Jersey.

"Religions" was the subject taken up on Friday morning. Dr. Morris Jastrow, Jr., began with an explanation of the method and scope of their historical study; Mrs. Sarah Y. Stevenson gave an interesting sketch of an ancient Egyptian rite illustrating a phase of primitive thought; Mrs. Matilda C. Stevenson contributed a chapter in Zuni mythology obtained by personal study on the spot; and Mr. F. Parry read a theory relating to certain elements of religious symbolism. The afternoon was given to discussion of various points in North American ethnology by Professor O. T. Mason and to the ethnology of Paraguay by Dr. Emil Hassler.

The last day, Saturday, was set apart for "Linguistics," and for reading papers which had been crowded out on previous days. Dr. Daniel G. Brinton gave a brief review of the present status of our knowledge of American languages with especial reference to the parts of the continent in which it is deficient. These he especially found in Mexico and central South America. Dr. Boas stated his classification of the languages of the north Pacific coast; Dr. C. Abel illustrated his theory of the affinities of the Egyptian and European languages; Mr. Richardson read on the Cameroons of South Africa; Mr. Wildman on the ethnology of the Malay peninsula; and Dr. Jahn on the ethnological collection in the German village at the Fair. The session and the week closed with a social dinner in the Midway Plaisance given by the American to the foreign delegates, presided over by Professor F. W. Putnam and Dr. D. G. Brinton, which closed the scientific proceedings in the most agreeable manner.

All of the papers mentioned above were read before the congress and discussed as far as time permitted. Besides these, a number were read by title from writers who could not be present. Among them were Mr. Horatio Hale, A. L. Lewis, Dr. A. F. Chamberlain, Dr. F. S. Krauss, M. Raoul de la Grasserie, Dr. F. Jacobsen, Senor C. De la Torre, and others.

The number of foreign delegates embraced a fair proportion of those present, and in this respect the Congress merited its title as an "international" one. Among them may be mentioned Dr. Carl Peters, the Imperial German Commissioner for East Africa, Senor Manuel M. de Peralta, Minister from Costa Rica, Dr. Carl Abel, the well-known Egyptologist, Mr. C. Staniland Wake, of London, Dr. Ernst, of Venezuela, etc.

It was decided to print at an early date the transactions of the Congress by subscription. They will form a volume of 500 pages, price \$5.00, subscriptions for which may be sent to Dr. Franz Boas, Secretary, Department of Ethnology, Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

FREDERICK WARNE & Co. will issue immediately a "Dictionary of Quotations from Ancient and Modern English and French Sources."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

\* \* \* Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as a proof of good faith.

On request in advance, one hundred copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

### INSECT SWARMS.

On the evening of June 26th, last, the fire department was called to two of the highest buildings in this city, the alarms being caused by an appearance as of smoke issuing from the pinnacles of the towers. In both cases the appearance was found to be caused by clouds of insects. On the following evening I witnessed the same interesting phenomenon about the court-house tower. I knew that I was looking at a swarm of insects, yet it was difficult to realize that it was not smoke, issuing from the summit, and driven by a brisk breeze. Near the tower the swarm was narrow and dense, gradually widening and thinning to a distance of about fifty feet, where it seemed to vanish by attenuation. The extent of the swarm varied but little during my observation, but the constant changes within it exactly simulated puffs of smoke driven away by the breeze. The deception was still more complete from the fact that the insects swarmed on the leeward side. On other dates up to July 18th I saw the same display, in each instance agreeing in every detail with the above description. The insects appeared to gather just before sunset and probably remained till attracted by the lights of the city.

On a store front near-by I captured some insects which I have good reason to believe were identical with the swarmers. These are Neuropters, about one-half of an inch in length, exclusive of the antennæ, genus and species unknown.

C. D. McLOUTH.

Muskegon, Mich., Sept. 2.

### PROSOPOPHORA; A GENUS OF SCALE-INSECTS NEW TO THE NORTH AMERICAN FAUNA.

SOME time ago, I found at Las Cruces, N. Mex., a chenopodiaceous plant suffering severely from the attacks of scale insects (Coccidæ). On examination, it turned out that there were three species of these insects present, all new to the fauna of the United States. One is a form of *Mytilaspis albus*, Ckll., known hitherto only from Jamaica; the second is *Ceroplastes irregularis*, Ckll., the description of which, from Mexican specimens, is about to be published; and the third, to my surprise, proves to be a new species of Mr. Douglas's genus *Prosopophora*.

The genus *Prosopophora* was established in 1892 (Ent. Mo. Mag., August) for a species found on orchids in Demerara, which superficially resembled a *Lecanium*, but was distinguished by a number of peculiar characters. This year (Trans. N. Z. Inst.) Mr. Maskell has described two more species of the genus, found in Australia on *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* respectively. Now we have a fourth from the United States,—so that within a little more than a year four species have been discovered of a remarkable genus, which had been altogether overlooked until 1892!

Mr. Maskell has kindly sent me both his Australian species, and I have the Demerara one from Mr. Newstead. Our insect is most like *P. acacie*, Mask., in appearance and color, but it is amply distinct in its structural characters. I propose to call it *P. rufescens*, and the following short description includes its more important characters: *Prosopophora rufescens*, n. sp. Scale waxy, about 4 to 4½ mm. long, shape and outline of *Lecanium hesperidum*, with a slight but distinct median keel, and a subdorsal row of raised points on each side. Posterior end with a small oval orifice, as in *P. acacie*. Surface obscurely granular