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THE WOMAN'S ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

IT is pleasant to record that this Society held its one hundredth meeting in January, 1893; and in memory of this interesting occasion, it has issued a modest pamphlet with a sketch of its industry since its organization in 1885. It has had three presidents, Mrs. Tilly E. Stevenson, Mrs. Carter and the present incumbent, Miss Alice C. Fletcher. The Society is divided into six sections, occupied respectively with the six branches, archæology, child-life study, ethnology, folk-lore, psychology and sociology. This division might be open to some question, especially as to the distinction between ethnology and sociology; but if it is found to be a good working basis, that is enough. The finances are reported in a flourishing condition, and the attendance, as well as the membership, reveals a steady advance.

So far as I am aware, there is no other anthropological society composed exclusively of women; although there are distinguished anthropologists of the female sex in many countries. It seems contrary to the true spirit of science for any scientific society to be composed exclusively of one sex. The pursuit of truth, especially that of general laws by inductive methods, should be epicene, and severed from all sex relations. The result of the opposite course in this instance is indicated by the fact that three-fourths of this report are taken up with an article on "The Woman's Movement." Good indeed, but much better fitted for a political congress than an anthropological society. When women become scientists, they should for the time forget sex in the search for truth.

THE PALAEO-ASIATICS.

THIS is the name given by some ethnographers—Russian and German—to a number of tribes, including the Kamschatkans, Ghiliaks, Koriaks, Youkagirs, etc., now inhabiting the islands and extreme northern and eastern coasts of Siberia; the theory being, that at one time their ancestors occupied most of northern Asia and the Japanese Archipelago, but were dispossessed by the Chinese, Mantchu, and other Mongoloid peoples. They are small in stature (about 1.50—1.60), strongly built, head round, nose flat, eyes small and oblique, hair straight, beard scanty.

Some interesting studies bearing on this question have been recently issued by Professor Gustave Schlegel, of Leyden, to whose fruitful researches in the Chinese annals I have before alluded (see *Science*, Sept. 9, 1892, March 24, 1893). He advances cogent reasons for believing the "Land of Little Men" of these ancient chronicles was Japan, and the small people from whom it derived its name were the Koriaks, who, he argues, inhabited these islands before the arrival of the Ainos, and were driven out by them. He supports this by the archæological observations of Prof. E. S. Morse, which point in this direction. The Ainos themselves, he inclines to think, are the nation referred to in the Annals as the inhabitants of "The Land of White People," and connects them with the European white race, both from the color of their skin, the character of their hair, and their full beards, traits which distinguish them broadly from their Mongolian neighbors.

Other identifications suggested by Professor Schlegel are the "Land of Gentlemen" with a part of Corea; the "Land of the East" with Kamschatka; the "Land of Profligate Devils" also with Kamschatka; and the "Land of Tall Men" with the islands of the Ainos.

THE ETRUSCAN PROBLEM.

THAT in the centre of the classic world a nation arose, attained a high state of civilization and remarkable artistic and literary culture, flourished for five hundred years, then disappeared, leaving some of the grandest monuments of history, and thousands of inscriptions and extensive texts in its language,—and yet that modern scholars have been unable to decipher positively a word of this language, or discover an affinity with any other nation or race,—this is certainly an unique example.

The efforts are, however, bravely continuing.

In a little-known provincial journal, the *Zeitschrift des Insterburger Alterthumsverein*, 1893, Heft III, Dr. G. Kleinschmidt has an article headed, "Zwei Lemnische Inschriften," undertaking to show that the two well-known inscriptions from the island of Lemnos, in Etruscan characters, can be interpreted by the Lithuanian and Lettish languages. As these are pure and ancient forms of Aryan speech, his argument has just as much in its favor as those of the great Etruscologist Deecke, who also claims Etruscan as an Indo-Germanic tongue.

Quite opposed to that view is the opinion—not novel—of Signor Gaetano Polari, who in a brief paper called "The New Etruscology," printed at Lugano, urges and illustrates the similarity of Etruscan to the Basque language.

Approaching the question from the side of physical anthropology, Professor Giuseppe Sergi, of Rome, in a careful article in the *Nuova Antologia*, Sept., 1893, announces that a prolonged and minute study of the genuine Etruscan remains of skulls, etc., throughout Italy, has convinced him that beyond doubt they must be classed with the Lybian stock, of North Africa. He will shortly bring out the technical demonstration of this. It gives me a natural pleasure to mention this, as the many points of similarity between the culture, religion and languages of these two peoples were first pointed out by myself,—as Professor Sergi kindly acknowledges.

THE STUDY OF FOLK-LORE IN ITALY.

FEW nations can claim the wealth of folk-lore possessed by Italy, and it is a pleasure to add that no nation is more diligent in the collection and sifting of this interesting anthropologic material.

Quite recently, a new society for this purpose has been added to the considerable number of those already existing; this one at Rome, under the guidance of the distinguished Professor De Gubernatis. In Sicily, Signor Pitré has been most successful in exciting an interest in the subject, and the "Archivio per lo Studio delle Tradizioni Popolari," which he brings out, is always rich in useful observations. Our own eminent folk-lorist, Mr. Charles G. Leland, who makes his home largely in Italy, has published some most curious investigations of the survival of Etruscan rites in the superstitions of to-day in that ancient land.

In the province of Naples, Dr. Stanislas Prato, Professor in the Royal Lyceum at Lucera, is a diligent collector, and has published largely, though but little in book form. Among his essays may be mentioned a critical dissertation on the "Twelve Words of Truth," "Le Dodici

Parole della Verita," in its various forms; on a peculiarity of the Book of Tobit; on the Novelle of Cieco da Ferrara; on the Apologue of Menenius Agrippa, etc. All of these show extensive reading and sound critical judgment.

FALL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

In December, 1890, this society was organized "for the promotion of the scientific examination and discussion of various questions of interest to the material progress of the state." The last meeting of this society was held in Birmingham on Nov. 24, when several papers of considerable interest were presented.

Mr. Murray, of the Linn Iron Works, described an improvement made by him in boilers. This improvement consists in the use of a double decked boiler with a mud drum below, and a further improvement was a modification of the Speerman-Kennedy gas burner. Mr. A. E. Barton, Superintendent of the Ensley Furnaces, read a paper "On the Grading of Southern Pig-Iron," in which he discussed the change from the old method of fifteen grades to the present one of eleven grades. He also emphasized the necessity of frequent analyses of the furnace products as an aid to the proper grading.

Mr. Erskine Ramsay, Mining Engineer at the Pratt Mines, and President of the Society, read a paper "On the Use of Coke Oven Gases and Heat in the Generation of Steam." The system in use at the Pratt Mines, which has been very carefully worked out by Mr. Ramsay, has resulted in considerable economy. The coke ovens are provided with a gas flue running the entire length of the battery through which the gases are delivered under the boilers. Mr. Ramsey showed that the heat thus utilized was merely the waste heat of the coke ovens, and that none of it was due to the combustion of the gases themselves. Attempts to utilize the heat of combustion were not successful.

Dr. William B. Phillips, consulting chemist of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway Company, read a paper on the "Improvement of the Iron Ores of the Birmingham District," in which he described certain processes which he has for some time been investigating, by which it will be possible to free the red ores of the Clinton or Red Mountain formation from the greater part of the silica, as well as from most of the phosphorus. The freeing of the iron from the silica is effected by means of an electromagnet, the ores having been previously magnetized by heating them in an atmosphere of combustible gas. Operating upon 3,000 pounds at a time, the crude ore, which contained 40 per cent of iron and 29 per cent of silica, was so improved as to yield 57 per cent of iron and only 10 per cent of silica. In some cases even better results than this have been obtained. The success of these experiments has induced the company to make a test on a large scale in one of their furnaces in Bessemer, and if successful there also (and of this there seems to be no reasonable ground for doubt), a vast amount of ore will at once become available, which is now thrown aside because carrying from 25 per cent to 35 per cent of silica.

Mr. H. F. Wilson, Jr., described some work of his in tracing the great seams of ore along the Red Mountain on both sides of Grace's Gap, illustrating his remarks by some handsome drawings and sections. This paper was a valuable supplement to that of Dr. Phillips.

The financial depression of the last year or two has left its impress upon the society, but at this last meeting nine new members were elected, and a marked increase of interest was shown in the number of papers presented and in the discussions which followed.

ALABAMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The field work of the geological survey during the past season has been in the gold region of Coosa, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Cleburne, Randolph and Clay Counties. Before the discovery of gold in California a great amount chiefly of placer work was done in Alabama, and many thousands of dollars' worth of gold raised. This work was almost suspended when the new fields of California were brought to notice, for the gold miners of Georgia and Alabama flocked to the new country to try their fortunes. Since 1849, the mining of gold in Alabama has been somewhat desultory, though never entirely abandoned. During the past five years there has been a renewal of interest in the industry, and many new enterprises have been set on foot. Unfortunately, however, some of these were badly managed and have come to grief, and the impression has gone abroad that the mining of gold in Alabama will not pay.

Certainly, it will not pay in the manner in which the work has been carried on at many places, for most of the plants are arranged solely for the winning of free gold and are practically useless after the mining has gone down to the drainage level, and the ore is in its original condition of a sulphuret. Thus most of the mills have ceased work after the free milling surface ore has been exhausted. A few years ago Dr. William B. Phillips undertook for the Alabama Survey an examination of the gold region of the state, but this work was interrupted by unavoidable circumstances after he had spent only a few weeks in the field. His report, in Bulletin No. 3 of the Alabama Survey documents, showed conclusively that with proper methods, such as are in use at the Hailes mine in South Carolina and elsewhere and adapted to the successful working of sulphurets, the mining of gold could be made profitable in many places within the borders of this state. The examinations of the last season have only served to confirm this opinion of Dr. Phillips and to bring to light a number of new localities where the mining of gold with proper methods of extraction may surely be made profitable The gold does not seem to be distributed over the whole of our crystalline schists, but it is mainly confined to those belts of partially crystalline, argillaceous slates which have been named the Talladega formation by the Geological Survey A part of these slates are equivalent to the Ocoee group of Dr. Safford in Tennessee. This is the belt which lies furthest towards the northwest, making the northwest border of the crystalline schists, but there are two other well defined belts of almost exactly identical rocks crossing our crystalline area further to the southeast, and these belts also are rich in gold-bearing quartz veins. In one locality only, of those examined, the gold is found in a fully crystalline mica schist.

In most instances the gold is associated with veins of quartz which appear to be interbedded with the slates themselves, and in such cases the veins are usually not solid sheets of quartz but strings of lenticular masses of quartz wrapped in the slates, and occupying a width or thickness of strata of twenty or thirty feet. In other instances the quartz veins cut across the strata and are then only a few inches in thickness but very rich in gold. In the westernmost belt of these gold bearing rocks, the quartz vein is quite thin, only a few inches, but on the other hand of exceptional richness. For several years past the attention of capitalists has been directed to the gold fields of this and adjoining states, and it appears certain that with ordinary care and good judgment in the management the mining of gold will soon be numbered among the paying industries of Alabama.