

Pliny and Strabo, but also the experience which, as he says himself, is the mother of all things.

The next Spanish works on navigation to be mentioned are those of Fernandez* (1520), Faleiro (1535), Medina † (1545), and Cortés ‡ (1551), through the numerous translations of which the science of the Spanish pioneers spread all over the civilized world.

JOSEPH DE PEROTT.

CLARK UNIVERSITY.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY (XI).

RACIAL AND ETHNIC TRAITS.

TIME was when Nott and Gliddon and their colleagues and disciples undertook to prove the fundamental diversity of the races of mankind, physically and mentally. The pendulum has now swung to the other extreme, and various leading ethnologists deny the existence of any such things as racial or ethnic traits, tendencies or capacities. For instance, Dr. Otto Stoll, in his thoughtful work, 'Suggestion and Hypnotismus' (cap. xx.), calls racial psychology a 'deceptive appearance' (Trugbild); Dr. S. R. Steinmetz, in the introduction to his 'Entwicklung der Strafe,' quotes with approval the opinions of those who say that the only psychical differences in races are those arising from their surroundings, etc.

If such expressions—not always clearly enunciated—mean merely that the traits of races and nations are the slow results of their *milieu*, and are as permanent as the physical results, color, hair, etc., they are truisms which nobody denies; but if, as is apparently the case, they intend to say that at present the Fuegian or the Bantu has the intellectual endowment of the European, and all that he requires to make use

of it to as good effect is to be given an equal chance, this is contradicted by uniform and repeated experience. The mental traits of races and peoples are as much their peculiar characteristics as are their bodily idiosyncrasies, and are just as impossible to change by any quick process. The theories of education and government which have been based on the opposite view have steadily failed. The changes in the mental are strictly correlated to those in the physical system. It is vain for ethnologists to seek to forget this elementary physiological fact.

THE PROGRESSIVE DEPOPULATION OF NORTHERN REGIONS.

THE last census of Russia showed that its northern province, Archangelsk, had lost over ten thousand of its already sparse population within a decade, not from any general or violent cause, but from the independent migration of families to more genial climes toward the south. Mr. H. C. Bryant and other Arctic travelers assure me that there is no doubt about the advancing extinction of the natives of the extreme north of America and Greenland. Dr. A. Jacoby, in the 'Archiv für Anthropologie' for November last, draws a painful picture of the degeneration and disappearance of the Samoyeds and other boreal tribes of Siberia. Nearly everywhere the arctic and sub-arctic zones have fewer inhabitants than a half century ago.

The general causes are obvious. One is the destruction of the native tribes by the introduction of new modes of life, new diseases, alcohol and idleness; another is the removal of all who can go, to climates of less severity. The arctic regions, like mountains, were not originally chosen by preference as homes, but were the refuges of conquered and dispersed bands. Now that the pressure is removed such inhospitable climes will certainly be occupied less and

* Translated into French.

† The French translation had five editions, the German six, the English one, the Italian two, and the Flemish one.

‡ Translated into English.

less. The center of gravity of the population of the earth tends more and more to fix itself between the isothermals of 40° and 60°; we might even say 45° and 55°. Neither tropic nor sub-artic countries offer the prizes which the masses of the human race now long for.

THE PICTOGRAPHS OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

AN important article on this subject by M. Leon Dignet in 'L' Anthropologie,' 1895, No. 2, should attract the attention of American archæologists. It gives a list of some thirty engraved or painted designs on rocks in Lower California between lat. 23° and 29°, and presents copies of a number of them, with a satisfying discussion of their character and origin.

The paintings are in red, yellow, black and white, and represent ideograms, persons or animals, these latter at times associated so as to form a group or scene; most of them are on boulders in the vicinity of springs or streams, or else in caves. The petroglyphs are often deeply and clearly cut on the surface of hard rocks, and are of the same general character as the paintings, hence doubtless by the same people.

The first missionaries to the natives of the region observed and noted these curious designs, and inquired of the existing tribes their origin. The reply was that they were the work of a race of giants, who in ancient times came down the coast from the north. This, of course, merely meant that they knew nothing of the designers. The idea of giants arose simply enough from the uncommon stature of some of the persons represented, about seven feet high. It is well known that the tribes who occupied Lower California when it was first explored were extremely rude and devoid of arts.

THE EARLIEST HUMAN OCCUPANTS OF THE ATLANTIC WATERSHED.

A FEW years ago 'advanced' archæologists entertained no doubt about the vast

antiquity of the human occupation of the Atlantic watershed. There were 'paleolithic sites' on the Potomac, tools from the Trenton gravels, 'glacial hearths' in New York State, etc.

Matters have changed. The ominous word *talus* robs the Trenton gravels of their fame; 'quarry rejects' explain the paleolithic sites; and so on with one supposed proof and another. Then Mr. H. C. Mercer turns 'the dry light of science' on the darkness of the caves of the Alleghanies, and finds nothing in them older than our familiar friend, the red Indian. Finally, Mr. Gerard Fowke, in a pamphlet just published by the Bureau of Ethnology, gives the results of his archæologic investigations in the valleys of the James and Potomac Rivers, announcing the somewhat startling conclusion that not only did he find no sign whatever of any other occupancy than that of the red Indian, but even this he is convinced could not have been of very long duration, or what could really be called ancient.

Another publication by the Bureau, by Mr. James Mooney, entitled 'The Siouan Tribes of the East,' shows by a large collation of authorities that the Dakota stock at the time of the discovery occupied most of the land east of the mountains, between the Santee River and the Potomac. Mr. Horatio Hale was the first to call definite attention to this unexpected fact.

It is difficult to believe that the splendid forests of the Atlantic slope and its fertile river bottoms remained untrodden by man until our familiar Sioux and Five Nations and Delawares took possession of them, a few centuries before Columbus. Such a supposition involves puzzling anthropologic corollaries; but for the present we must accept it as the actual result of investigation.

D. G. BRINTON.