

ophy; Logic and Theory of Knowledge; *Æsthetics of Music*.

The tendencies shown by this summary are by no means new. It appears very clearly that logic and the theory of knowledge are absorbing much more attention than any form of speculative metaphysics. The rapid development and widespread interest in psychology are evidenced by the fact that in the nineteen universities mentioned there are no less than sixteen courses of lectures devoted to this subject. In many places work is also being done in laboratories and seminars. Kant's Philosophy receives very general attention. Five courses of lectures are given on his system, besides the seminary work. The historical work covers all periods, starting with Professor Deussen's investigations in old Sanskrit and Greek Philosophy and extending to the philosophy of to-day.

CHAS. H. JUDD.

LEIPZIG.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY (XI.).

THE GERMAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1894.

THE full proceedings of the meeting of this Association, held last August at Innsbruck, have recently been published in the *Mittheilungen* of the Anthropological Society of Vienna.

The topics discussed were largely of local interest, such as the somatology and prehistory of Tyrol, the prehistoric monuments of Switzerland, the construction of the German house and the recent archæologic finds in central Europe. Of wider scope was the address of the honorary president, Dr. Virchow, who tackled the questions of the origin of man and of the races of men; of Dr. Palacky, of Prague, who filed a brief in defence of the Biblical chronology; of Dr. Virchow again, who delivered a most instructive address on the pygmy races of the

world and the phenomenon of dwarfness generally; of Professor Sergi, of Rome, on the same subject, especially the pygmies of Europe; of Professor Ranke, on the dependence of the erect stature on the development of the brain; of Dr. Mies, of Cologne, on the relations of the weight of the brain to growth; and a very learned and able summary by the president, Baron von Andrian, on 'Some results of modern ethnology.'

This was the twenty-fifth meeting of the Association, and the comparisons drawn by Dr. Virchow between the present state of anthropologic science and what it was a quarter of a century ago were instructive and entertaining.

AMERICAN SUBJECTS AT THE GERMAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

NATURALLY enough, America did not come in for a large share of attention at the German Association; but it was not wholly overlooked. Mr. Reber compared the cup-shaped markings on certain rocks in Switzerland with similar specimens in America; but he was sharply set to right by Dr. Von Den Steinen, the celebrated explorer of Brazil, with the remark: "I pointedly warn against any such supposition. All attempts to throw ethnographic bridges between the Old and New Worlds have hitherto completely failed." Dr. Von Luschan, however, referred to the modern Tyrolese feather work as having been introduced from Mexico; though that was of course quite a recent bridge. Dr. Palacky, in his paper above named, denied that there is any parallel in time or character between the ice age in America and Europe; but offered no clear reasons for saying so. Dr. Virchow, in discussing dwarf races, spoke of some very small (Nannocephalic) skulls from southern Venezuela and Columbia, but did not assert that they indicated a pygmy tribe there resident, as his argument

rather was that the cerebral capacity does not necessarily prove that the person who carried the skull was of extremely low stature. In fact, up to the present time, though individual dwarfs are known to have existed in America, and are even said to have been artificially cultivated in Mexico for the amusements of the nobles (!), no dwarf tribe has yet been discovered.

AMERICAN OBJECTS IN NEPHRITE.

THE proceedings of the Berlin Anthropological Society for January last contain a description by the well known archæologist, Dr. A. Ernst, of Caraccas, Venezuela, of three nephrite axes from that region, one of them found by himself. All three are of rather clear, green color, not presenting the milkiness of the so-called Chinese article—A trait which characterizes the specimen from the same locality which has long been in the Museum of Berlin, and which particularly attracted the attention of the late Dr. Heinrich Fischer, and which he dwells on as important in his classical work, 'Nephrit und Jadeit' (pp. 7, 347).

It is true that up to date we do not know the deposit from which these South American species were taken, but it seems a long way to go to look for it in Burmah or Turkestan, as some would advise. Mineralogists are now of the opinion that neither the coloring nor the chemical composition of these allied minerals is sufficient to designate their source. A better criterion is their microscopic structure. This presents marked and peculiar differences, and if the American specimens could not be traced to any known site on this continent, and presented all the lithological traits of the Asiatic article (which they do not, in as far as examination has proceeded), then there would be some basis for such speculations.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PHYSICS.

LORD KELVIN AND MR. MURRAY 'ON THE TEMPERATURE VARIATION OF THE THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OF ROCKS.'*

IN the recent interesting revival of the question of the probable 'Age of the Earth' it has developed that it would be very convenient if it were known whether rocks conduct heat more readily when hot than when cold. Not much was known on this point, and the research bearing the above title was carried out with a view to determining whether conductivity varied with temperature, and if so whether directly or indirectly. In a general way, the plan of the experiment was to produce a steady flux of heat between the two ends of a column of the rock under examination, the temperature of these ends being kept constant, and then to measure the temperature at three points within the column arranged in a line coincident with the flux line. The ratio of the mean conductivities for the portions of the rock between the first and second points and the second and third would then be defined by Fourier's theory of conductivity, as a function of the steady temperature at these points and the distance between them.

The columns of rock were not large, being generally about three or four centimetres square and six or eight centimetres high, although somewhat larger in one or two cases. They were split in halves in a vertical plane parallel to the flux line, to allow of the introduction along the centre line of thermo-electric junctions consisting of platinoid and copper. These were of wire fitted in small grooves, and the two parts were then pressed tightly together so as to resemble an unbroken column as nearly as possible. The lower end was kept at a nearly constant high temperature by means of a bath of molten tin. The upper surface was covered with mercury into which the

* A paper read before the Royal Society on May 30.