

distinguished iron master, John Fritz, the builder and manager of the famous Bethlehem Iron Works.

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*CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY (XV.).*

THE PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS.

IN SCIENCE, January 11, 1895, I published the first notice, in this country, of Dr. Dubois' remarkable find, in Java, of a creature intermediate between man and the apes; adding that his monograph could not fail to excite wide attention. This was so decidedly the case, so many articles appeared for and against the accuracy of his statements and conclusions, that the Dutch government sent for him to come in person and bring all his specimens to the International Zoölogical Congress in Leyden, in October last. He punctually appeared, with a large number of mammalian bones from the formation in which the Pithecanthropus was found, and an additional tooth of the animal itself.

The geological experts present decided that the various bones indicated the oldest pleistocene or else the youngest pliocene. The anatomists expressed themselves about the skull, teeth and femur of the alleged 'missing link.' Professor Virchow, probably the most conservative, maintained that the bones were of an ape; but an ape generically distinct from any known; and if the skull and femur belonged to the same individual then it was an erect ape, walking like a man; but he would not acknowledge that it bridged the gap between the anthropus and the anthropoid.

Practically the same result was reached by the eminent French anatomist, Dr. Manouvrier. He studied the originals in the possession of Dr. Dubois; and he declares there can be no doubt that in them we see the remains of a creature intermediate between man and the ape, walking erect, with a cranium like that of the gibbons, but much larger than any existing gibbon.

The conclusion is indisputable that in the Pithecanthropus we have an animal higher than the highest ape and lower than the lowest man.

AFFINITIES OF THE CHACO LANGUAGES.

DR. S. A. LAFONE QUEVEDO, well known for his studies of the native tongues of the Argentine Republic, has lately published some of his results in a paper entitled 'Las Migraciones de los Indios en la America Meridional.' The theory he advocates briefly is that the Kechua, the Aymara, the Araucan, Cacan, Guaycuru and Guarani are fundamentally much less different than has been supposed; that, allowing for phonetic changes, and adventitious and local forms, they have so much underlying similarity that we should regard them as developments from a common, ancient speech. To support this opinion, he lays much stress on the words for water, river, rain, etc., and on the personal pronouns.

Much more evidence will have to be presented before this opinion will be accepted. It is in conflict with the views of nearly all previous scholars. On the other hand, all will welcome the special studies of the same writer on the Chaco dialects. He has in press an extended grammar of the Abipone, and is engaged on another of the Mbaya and a third of the Payaguá. He has reached the conviction that the Vilela and Lule are the only two non-Guaycuru languages in the Argentine Chaco. If this is so it simplifies amazingly the extremely complicated ethnography of that region.

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*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.*

ASTRONOMICAL.

MEASUREMENT of the photographic plates taken for the purpose of making an accurate catalogue of all the stars in the heavens has decidedly gone beyond the preliminary stage.