

say: "Whether these names be right or wrong according to this or that code of nomenclature, we do not know and we do not care; but we bind ourselves to accept them in their entirety, and we hereby declare that the date when this list was closed for the press shall henceforward be the date adopted as the starting point for our nomenclature."

We have put this proposition in a broad manner; there are, of course, numerous minor points to be taken into consideration. The preparation of a mere list would be an enormous undertaking; we learn from Dr. David Sharp and the workers on the *Zoölogical Record* that there are 386,000 recent species; no one has reckoned the number of extinct species. Some such work as the 'Index generum et specierum animalium,' now being compiled with a minimum of support and under constant difficulties by Mr. Charles Davies Sherborn, must form the basis of any such synopsis as that here proposed. The first duty of naturalists is to help Mr. Sherborn, who works at the British Museum under a Committee of the British Association. We also have to consider what is to be done when our list is completed. First of all, it must constantly be kept up to date. It seems to us that some restriction will have to be laid upon the place and manner of publication of new specific names, and we would suggest that, when the time comes, no specific name should be recognized unless it be entered by the author at some central office, together with a properly published copy of the work in which the description appears. The name would then be checked, dated, and placed at once in the index.

It is not contended that the acceptance of our proposal would obviate the need for a code of nomenclature. But it would be a far simpler code, free from the doubt as to whether its rules were to be retrospective; and its action would be uniform and strin-

gent. Nor is it contended that the validity of a name carries with it the validity of a species. For the stability of nomenclature, it would be advisable to include in the list as many names as possible, and to leave to specialists the duty of deciding on the distinctness and systematic position of species. But whether our aim be the completion of an Index, the compilation of a Synopsis, or the construction of a Code, it is necessary that there should be absolute and loyal coöperation between zoölogists of every kind and every country, since by this means alone can the required sanction be obtained.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE CHILD MIND AND THE SAVAGE MIND.

PROF. JAMES SULLY, who fills the chair of 'philosophy of mind,' in University College, London, makes it a point in his recent work, 'Studies of Childhood,' to institute frequent comparison between the mental action of children and of savage adults. A few of his conclusions may be mentioned:

On the important question of the origin of languages he is not quite positive. He believes children 'show the germs of true grammatical feeling,' and believes "they might develop the rudiments of a vocal language;" but elsewhere quotes with seeming approval Max Müller's assertion that they could not do this, 'if left to themselves,' which begs the whole question. Unfortunately, Prof. Sully has not read Mr. Horatio Hale's admirable studies. He quotes them only at second hand.

Death presents itself to the child just as the savage. It is not annihilation, but a continued existence, partly with the body, partly separate from it. The lower animals live after death just as do human beings. The individuality to the child, as to the savage, is multiple, not single, whether in life or death.

The colors first recognized and most en-

joyed by children are red and yellow, and bright, glistening objects are equally attractive to both.

POINTS IN PRACTICAL ANATOMY.

IN the Bulletin of the Anthropological Society of Paris, for December, 1895, Dr. Chudzinski studies the radical differences presented by the rectus abdominis muscle. It is highest developed in the white race, least in the yellow race, while in the black race it is intermediate. Its anomalies and irregularities are more numerous in the colored races, and its intersections are higher in both these reaching their maximum in black women.

In the same Bulletin Dr. Montard-Martin reports observations on congenital and hereditary malformations of the fingers and toes. He reaches the general conclusion that these deformities are transmitted most directly and persist longer in the descendants of the same sex as the person transmitting them; *i. e.*, if derived from a maternal ancestor they will first disappear in the male descendants and *vice versa*.

THE ANCIENT ILLYRIANS.

ACCORDING to Frederick Müller, the Illyrians were the first to separate from the primitive Aryan stock, and left their Northern home to settle in the Balkan peninsula and on the coasts of the Adriatic Sea (*Allgemeine Ethnographie*, p. 70).

They have, therefore, a peculiar interest to students of Aryan ethnography, and the recent researches into their ancient sites and tombs merit attention. They are reported upon by Heding in the March number of the *Correspondenz-Blatt*. One of the largest cemeteries is Glasinac, 45 kilometers southeast of Sarajëvo. It contains 20,000 graves, chiefly dating from the bronze and early iron period. Glass, enamel and amber abound, but the pottery is comparatively rude, none of it being made with the potter's wheel. The oldest graves take us

back at least 1000 B. C., or about the time of the Homeric wars. Even then the Illyrians were a sedentary, agricultural people, acquainted with metals and fairly advanced in the arts. They flourished without serious interruption until about 400 B. C., when they were almost destroyed by the Celts, who at that time overran southern Europe. The modern Albanians, or Skipetars, are the descendants of those who escaped the disaster.

THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF BURMA.

THE supposed discovery of relics of tertiary man in Burma, by Dr. Nöthing, gives interest to the recent researches into the ethnography of that land.

The present population represents two strata of immigration. Much the oldest is that to which belong the Khmer, the Mon and similar tribes. An investigation of their dialects (principally by F. S. Forbes and E. Kuhn) revealed the unexpected result that they are members of the Kohl family of central and northern India, belonging therefore to the 'Dravidian' group.

The Burmese proper claim to be descended from the Indian Kshatryas; but this is incorrect. They are remarkably similar in physical type and temperament to the Tibetans; and in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, January, 1896, Mr. B. Houghton shows that their language is a Tibetan dialect, and that they migrated from the western end of the Tibetan plateau many centuries B. C. Even then they were agricultural, knew iron and other metals, and had extended trade relations.

The peculiar ancient stone implements found in Burma, of the form known as 'shouldered celts,' asymmetric antero-posteriorly are shown by A. Grünwedel (in 'Globus,' Bd. 68, No. 1.) to be of the same size and shape as others from the Kokl territory of India.

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