

in diameter and 8 inches in length. The cylinders had conical depressions at each end, these depressions nearly meeting at the center. Similar 'rollers' were observed in Connecticut on February 20, 1883, on which day some of them measured 12 x 18 inches, and their paths could be traced for 20 or 30 feet in the snow.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

ELEMENTARY PSYCHICAL CONCEPTS.

THE eminent anthropologist, whom his disciples love to call the 'Altmeister' of the science, Dr. Adolf Bastian, has added another to his numerous works by one recently published in Berlin (Weidmannsche Buchhandlung), entitled 'Ethnische Elementargedanken in der Lehre vom Menschen.' These elementary or rather elemental thoughts may be looked upon "as the germinal matter out of which proceeded the psychical growth of the ethnic organism in its various methods of mental or spiritual expression," as the author states in his preface.

The subjects treated are those opinions which primitive peoples had and have on the topics relating to the ultra- or supernatural world, and its relations to man; such as divinity, the under-world, guardian spirits, mysteries, names, prayer, sacrifice, prophecy, heaven, hell, fate, evil, good, the creation, miracles, femininity, vows, witches, immortality, and a host of similar notions, which the author treats with his usual astonishing, overflowing and overwhelming erudition, and with that complexity of style which simply appals a foreign reader. Anyone who wishes a 'hard lesson' in German should take up the author's introduction to his second part.

PATHOLOGY IN ETHNOLOGY.

ONE of the most enlightened German writers on ethnology, Dr. Thomas Achelis, makes the following remark in an article in

Globus, No. 4, 1896: "Every form of degeneration, since it is a pathological process, does not belong primarily to subjects of ethnologic study." He would grant the first place only to subjects which reveal organic development, progressive evolution, and lift to higher phases of culture.

This seems a serious error. It is the duty of the ethnologist, as of every other scientist, to study things as they are, awarding to each an equal amount of attention. What appear to be degenerations are often necessary steps in life process. Important advances in physiology have frequently been gained by the study of pathology. Science is untrue to itself when it undertakes to make the defense of evolution its chief aim. It should seek exact truth, indifferent as to whether that makes for goodness or for badness, as we judge those norms. "What seems most against nature, is yet natural," said Goethe; and whatever is natural, whatever is real, in other words, should claim our consideration, independently of its imagined tendencies; and nowhere is this more essential than in ethnology.

THE ANTHROPOLOGIC STUDY OF PERSONALITY.

THE word *persona* originally meant the mask which actors wore on the scenic stage; and a cynic would say that personality often means the same to-day. Strictly, we may use it as a synonym of individual self-consciousness, or the knowledge of self as a subject. In previous ages it was studied exclusively by introverted mental observation, and this led to vague speculations on the "Ego," of small positive worth.

In the '*Revue Scientifique*,' January 25th, Prof. Pierre Janet, of the College de France, lays down the principles for the anthropologic study of this phenomenon of personality. In itself it is to be regarded as the synthesis of the conscious and unconscious mental experiences of the individ-

ual, and it is to be defined and investigated by these methods: 1. The examination of self as heretofore carried on. 2. The examination of allied phenomena in the healthy condition of other minds, bringing them into comparison with our own; and, 3. The examination of minds more or less diseased in the direction of their personality. He lays especial stress on the last mentioned, referring to cases where the sense of personality has been partly or wholly lost. The problems of unconscious cerebration, subliminal consciousness, and the like, must also receive due attention.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF SCIENCE.

THE International Conference to consider the preparation of a catalogue of scientific literature by international coöperation will be held at the rooms of the Royal Society, London, beginning on Tuesday, July 14th.

The committee of the Royal Society suggests provisionally that the author and subject catalogue shall be restricted in the first instance to branches of pure science, such as mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, zoölogy, botany, physiology and anthropology, to the exclusion of applied science, such as engineering, medicine and the like, but that all definite contributions to pure science shall be thoroughly indexed, whether occurring in books, memoirs, etc., treating of pure science or in those devoted to applied or practical science.

The committee also recommends that there shall be a first issue of authors' titles, subject-matter, etc., in the form of slips or cards, which shall be distributed as speedily and as frequently as possible to subscribers, and that a further issue in book form shall take place at such intervals as shall be determined on, parts corresponding to the several sciences, being, if found desirable, published separately.

It is recommended that a central bureau shall be established under the control of an international council having authority over any under-

taking which may be allotted to particular countries, institutions or persons. The cost of the catalogue, in so far as it is not met by sales, should be provided for by means of a guarantee fund subscribed by governments, learned societies, institutions and individuals throughout the world, and it is estimated that the annual sum thus to be secured should be approximately \$50,000.

The conference will have to take into consideration where the bureau shall be placed, how the international council shall be appointed and organized, what language or languages shall be used and what system of classification shall be adopted. It is suggested that the decimal system of Dewey may be so amended as to be worthy of adoption.

As already stated in this journal, the delegates to the conference from the United States are Dr. John S. Billings and Prof. Simon Newcomb.

EXHIBITION OF THE NEW YORK MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

THE Seventeenth Annual Exhibition of the New York Microscopical Society took place at the American Museum of Natural History on Tuesday evening, April 14th. The attendance steadily increasing from year to year has been a true indication of the value of this exhibition in what is usually spoken of as 'popularizing science.' The indiscriminate study of natural science often works more harm than good, especially if it be acquired through desultory and misdirected reading. Personal observation insures the safest and most lasting knowledge of Nature's acts and works. If this principle has been inculcated into the non-scientific portion of the audience, one purpose of the exhibition will have been accomplished. Persons more directly concerned and interested in scientific work also found enough to attract their attention.

The catalogue of seventy exhibits included many specimens of chemical crystals and minerals; various forms of pond life; the mouth parts of several insects, with specimens of their destructive borings in wood and other substances; drug plants and preparations of these; microscopical tests for the detection of quinine,