

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1896.

THE APE-MAN FROM THE TERTIARY OF JAVA.*

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NEAR the beginning of last year, a discovery was announced that excited great interest throughout the scientific world, especially among those interested in the origin and antiquity of man. The announcement first made was that remains of a veritable missing link between man and the higher apes had been found in Java, in strata of Pleistocene age. The discovery was made by Dr. Eugene Dubois, a surgeon in the Dutch army, who had been stationed in Java for several years and had devoted much time to the vertebrate fossils of that island.

The first definite information received in this country was in December, 1894, when Dubois's memoir on *Pithecanthropus* arrived.† One of the first copies reached the late Prof. Dana, and at his request I wrote a review of it, which appeared, with illustrations, in the *American Journal of Science* for February, 1895.

The memoir of Dr. Dubois was an admirable one, and, although written in Java, with only limited facilities for consulting the literature on the subject, and for comparing the remains described with living

* Abstract of communication made to the National Academy of Sciences at Washington, April 24, 1896.

† *Pithecanthropus erectus*. Eine menschenähnliche Uebergangsform aus Java. Von Eug. Dubois, Militairarzt der niederlaendisch-indischen Armee. Mit zwei Tafeln und drei in den Text gedruckten Figuren. 4to, Batavia, 1894.