is known. The distribution of this genus, as hitherto reported, is thus clearly antipodal, and its occurrence in our inland waters is, therefore, of more than passing interest.

It is well known that many of our rotifers are cosmopolitan. Thus, at least two-thirds of the thirty-one species reported from Wuhu as associated with *Trochosphæra* are also found at Havana. Again, *Notholca longispina*, originally described by Prof. D. S. Kellicott, from the Niagara River, has since been found to have a wide distribution in Europe; *Rotifer mento* and Anderson, discovered at Calcutta in 1889, was found by Dr. Jennings in 1893 in great abundance in Lake St. Clair. It may then be that *Trochosphæra* also is a cosmopolitan form.

One circumstance, however, seems to militate against this view. *Trochosphæra* was not reported from any one of our 505 collections made from April 1, 1894, to May 13, 1896, in the Illinois River or its adjacent waters. A re-examination of the river collections prior to June, 1896, made especially for *Trochophæra*, has been fruitless. Importation is thus suggested to account for its sudden appearance this year in the river at Havana. Rice straw and bamboo from the Orient were not uncommon at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and it may be that they smuggled in our visitor from China. Mr. Thorpe, in a discussion this year before the Royal Microscopical Society of London, maintained that rotifers, in their distribution, seemed to follow the footsteps of man, and that those found in foreign countries which had been colonized were frequently of the same kind as those of the countries whence the immigrants originally came. He had found, in Australia, for example, "the most abundant material always in ornamental waters in botanical gardens and in the immediate precincts of civilization, and the forms were such as left no doubt that in some way or other they had been introduced by the agency of man, for, as Dr. Hudson had remarked, a foot of salt water was as great a barrier to rotifers as an ocean."

Other agencies than the movements of man are beyond question active in the distribution of these minute members of the aquatic fauna. Their winter eggs are blown about in dust, it may be for considerable distances; or they may take passage on the feet or plumage of water-birds from distant lands. It is therefore but the merest conjecture to attribute the occurrence of *Trochosphæra* at Havana to introduction by man, especially in view of the paucity of information in regard to the minute fauna of our inland waters.

This preliminary note is published in the hope that it may lead to a wider knowledge of the distribution of this interesting member of the river plankton.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE ENGLISH 'ROUND BARROW' STOCK.

Few questions in English archæology are more difficult, and at the same time more important in the light their solution would throw on proto-history, than that relating to the people who built the 'round barrows' or graves. Their skulls are very much alike, highly brachycephalic, the parietal eminences projecting, the glabella and chin prominent.

Mr. C. S. Myers discusses them in an article on some old skulls from Suffolk, in the Journal of the Anthropological Institute, November, 1896. He says they were certainly not the Belgian Celts, as some have maintained. Possibly they were the neolithic Danes. But this only removes the difficulty, because we do not know to what stock these belonged. They might have been a branch of the round-headed 'Celts'

of central France, but the cranial type in other respects is not the same.

DISTRIBUTION OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL ARTEFACTS IN AMERICA.

A VALUABLE article by Mr. A. E. Douglass appears in the *Bulletin* of the American Museum of Natural History for October 26th. It explains the arrangement adopted by him for his extensive collection of American aboriginal relics. The aim is "to enable the students to determine with the least labor to what class any object in his possession properly belongs, and, by comparative study, to decide how it was used."

The geographical distribution of the various forms is discussed at length, and presented at the close of the paper in an elaborate table.

Mr. Douglass calls especial attention to the need of a uniform nomenclature for American archæology, and adds, "a point has been reached when this matter could and should be definitely settled," and offers the valuable suggestion that the Anthropological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science should appoint a committee for the purpose.

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CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

THE MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

THERE was a time when the *Monthly Weather Review* of our Weather Bureau was anything but an interesting publication, for it contained little besides meteorological summaries and statistics. During the past two years, however, under the editorship of Prof. Cleveland Abbe, to whom meteorology in this country owes so much, the *Review* has taken on more of a popular character, and it now presents every month not only the usual tables and summaries, but a considerable number of longer or shorter papers and notes on different meteorological subjects. These papers come mostly from the professors and observers of the Bureau, although outsiders also contribute. Prof. Abbe himself prepares each month a set of 'Notes by the Editor.' The *Monthly Weather Review*, with the strong backing of the Weather Bureau, is doing successfully a good share of the work which the *American Meteorological Journal* carried on in this country for twelve years and which, as it did not receive sufficient financial support, it was obliged to discontinue last April. The September number of the *Review* presents an unusually large number of interesting articles, and an idea of their scope may be obtained by noting some of their titles and authors, which follow: S. P. Fergusson: 'Kite Experiments at the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory' and 'A High Kite Ascension at Blue Hill' (an account of the kite work at Blue Hill, already referred to in these notes, which has given a large number of valuable records from the free air at heights up to over 9,000 feet); A. J. Henry: 'Progressive Movement of Thunderstorms;' Julius Baier: 'Low Presure in the St. Louis Tornado' (the readings of an aneroid give 26.94 in., with an uncertainty of .20 in., as the minimum at the center); Robert H. Scott: 'The International Meteorological Conference at Paris;' Prof. C. Abbe: 'Espy and the Franklin Kite Club,' 'Isobars and their Accuracy," 'The First Attempt to Measure Wind Force' (Sir Isaac Newton, in 1658, determined the force of a gale by jumping in the direction in which the wind was blowing and then in the opposite direction, and measuring the length of the leap in both directions).

CLOUD OBSERVATIONS IN TROPICAL PLANTS.

A RECENT paper by H. B. Boyer, Observer of the Weather Bureau at Key West, Fla., deals with *Atmospheric Circulation in Tropical Cyclones as shown by Movements of Clouds.* The author's main conclusions are as fol-