

ATLAS OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

A PUBLICATION of more than usual interest and importance is the large Atlas of the Pacific Ocean, recently issued by the *Deutsche Seewarte*, at Hamburg, under the direction of Dr. Neumayer. The previous volumes in the same series are an Atlas and a Handbook of Sailing Directions for the Atlantic and for the Indian Oceans. Although primarily intended for the use of ship captains, these publications should be studied by all meteorologists. The data on which the charts are based are the most complete and most authentic obtainable. The charts include among others the following: depths; ocean currents from January to March and from July to September; water surface temperatures for February, May, August and September; isotherms and isobars for the same months; winds for winter and summer; wind districts; relative frequency of winds for January, April, July and October; rainfall by districts; magnetic variation; sailing routes. For the minute study of the general meteorological conditions of the Pacific Oceans there is nothing that can approach these new German charts. The *Sailing Directions*, to accompany the *Atlas*, are now in press.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

AMERICAN CRANIOLOGY.

PROF. HAMY, the distinguished successor to de Quatrefages, has an article in *L'Anthropologie*, for April on the Malayan and the American races. Following older authorities, he treats both as offshoots from the Mongolian variety or subspecies. When he comes to the difficult task of classifying the refractory red men he relies wholly on craniology and his results are, to say the least, sweeping. He groups as one all the mound builders, cliff dwellers and Pueblo Indians. The same group 'extends from

the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Great Lakes to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.' They are all brachycephalic, short in stature, with narrow noses and prominent cheek bones. It is needless to say that the researches of Boas, Virchow, Matthews and others lend no support to this statement, and indeed contradict it. Nor is Prof. Hamy's discussion of the South American skull-forms in accordance with the measurements adduced by Ehrenreich and others.

The skull is as variable among the American aborigines as it is among the Aryan nations to-day, and no classification of stocks can be founded upon it. The linguistic classification is the closest to an exact one that we can have for the race of the new world, and has been accepted by all modern American authorities.

MAN AND THE MEGALONYX.

THE Megalonyx was a huge sloth who lived about these parts for some time after the Champlain depression of the pleistocene. His remains abound in what are called the 'Megalonyx layers,' a horizon which Gilbert has offered evidence to place post-glacial. In these layers no trace of man has yet been found; but in April last Mr. Henry C. Mercer, exploring for the University of Pennsylvania, found in a cave in Tennessee bones of this sloth, fresh in appearance, and with remains of attached tissue and ligaments, mingled with fragments of reeds used as torches by the Indians. Along with these were other bones of living fauna, cave rats, porcupines, etc. Mr. Mercer has issued a brief announcement of this discovery, with an illustration of the bones. Copies can be had by addressing him (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia).

This does not necessarily remove man to remote antiquity. The sloth might have survived to comparatively recent centuries

in the mild valleys of Tennessee; but it does seem to make the red man and the animal contemporaries.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

LORD KELVIN.

THE jubilee of Lord Kelvin's professorship was celebrated by the University of Glasgow, and the corporation of the city on June 15th, 16th and 17th. More than two hundred delegates were present, representing British and foreign universities and learned societies, and congratulatory messages and telegrams were sent from all parts of the globe. At a conversazione in the University on the evening of June 15th Lord Kelvin's numerous inventions and the diplomas, medals, addresses, etc., presented to him by various scientific and other learned societies, were exhibited, and more than two thousand guests offered their congratulations to Lord and Lady Kelvin. A cablegram from the University was sent by way of San Francisco and traversed the circuit of 20,000 miles in $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. On the morning of June 16th numerous addresses were presented to Lord Kelvin and the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him and on several of the distinguished guests, including Prof. Simon Newcomb and Prof. Cleveland Abbe. A banquet was given by the corporation in the evening, and on June 17th there was an excursion on the Firth of Clyde.

Prof. A. Gray writes to *Nature*: "As these words are being printed, the Jubilee of Lord Kelvin's professorship is being celebrated in the most enthusiastic and magnificent manner at Glasgow. Delegates from all parts of the world are present, and among them are many of the most eminent representatives of science at home and abroad. From Paris to Moscow, Canada to Mexico, India to Australia, the whole civilized world unites in congratulating Lord Kelvin on the great work for science and the good of his fellow men which he has achieved, and in offering good wishes that he may have health and strength for the continuance of his glorious career. Though for fifty years he has been

professor of natural philosophy at Glasgow, has seen pass through his classes several generations of students, has been one of the greatest leaders in what has been preëminently a century of scientific discovery and advancement, has worked as few men can work, and withal has taken the keenest interest in all that ought to interest the true citizen of a great country, yet is his eye not dim nor his natural force abated. It is the hope of all his friends and of all the great army of scientific workers who now are unanimous in doing him honor that he may have before him many long years of happy and successful work." All American men of science will join in offering their most sincere congratulations, for there is no one living when they honor more highly than Lord Kelvin.

THE TEACHING OF ANATOMY.

THE last number of the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins University* (May-June, 1896) contains interesting accounts of the anatomical courses and laboratories of the University, including the work on normal histology and microscopic anatomy and the photographic room and apparatus. The articles are illustrated by ground plans and photo-engravings and deserve careful study by those engaged in teaching anatomy or indeed any natural science. Prof. Mall holds that anatomy should be taught in the dissecting room and not by lectures. He writes:

"I have asked many professors, even of anatomy, where they had learned their anatomy, and in nearly all cases the reply was 'in the dissecting room.' They all admitted that, in addition to demonstrations, lectures were of little use to students, and some believed them worse than useless. The zoologists and botanists have long ago learned the absurdity of the lecture method of teaching, but the anatomist patiently keeps up this slow and stupid method of instruction. It is stupid because no anatomist would use this same method if he were to learn instead of to teach.

"We know very well that the burden of responsibility is removed, to a great extent, if the instructor goes over the whole subject carefully once a year. He then can tell his student to go to the dissecting room to see for himself.