

## CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

## AMERICAN LINGUISTICS.

STUDENTS of the ethnography of the Northwest Coast will welcome the 'Haida Grammar,' written by the Rev. C. Harrison and edited by Dr. A. F. Chamberlain. It is published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada (Second Series, Vol. I.), and covers 108 octavo pages. It is based on the scheme of grammars of Aryan tongues, the same grammatical categories being applied to the Haida. While this offers no special difficulty to one versed in the morphology of American idioms, it certainly presents such tongues under false analogies, which have often misled tyros in their study. It would have been better if the highly competent editor had taken the material and recast it in the form now required by linguistic science.

Dr. Paul Ehrenreich has added another to his valuable studies of Brazilian languages by publishing in the *Bastian Festschrift* several old vocabularies and a list of phrases of the tongue of the Botocudos. The analysis of them and the grammatical remarks which he adds give largely increased value to these fragments. His paper is entitled 'Ein Beitrag zur Charakteristik der Botocudischen Sprache.'

## PRIMITIVE PSYCHOLOGY.

To the primitive man, as we know him, the sense of individual power, that which metaphysicians call 'free will,' was very present. The strong, the mighty, was what excited his admiration above all else. His ideal was the man who could do what he wished or willed to do. The savage acknowledges no theoretic limit to the will any more than does the religious enthusiast. It can move mountains and consume rivers. It can act at indefinite distances and its force is measureless. In the religion of ancient Egypt the highest gods could be made to serve the will of a

man, did he but use the proper formula of command.

An interesting study of these aspects of savage psychology was read by Miss Alice C. Fletcher before the American Association. It is entitled 'Notes of certain beliefs concerning will power among the Siouan Tribes.' The author sets forth the strong sense of personality characteristic of the tribe and its language, though by no means confined to them, analyzes a series of terms employed to express the exercise of the power of volition, and explains a number of curious rites and customs which have sprung from the beliefs held by the Siouan gentes on this subject.

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## CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

## A TORNADO IN ARGENTINA.

A LARGE quarto of 556 pages is Vol. X (for 1891) of the *Anales de la Oficina Meteorologica Argentina* (Buenos Aires, 1896). It contains annual summaries for the principal stations and a general account of the year's work by the director, W. G. Davis. The most notable meteorological phenomenon of the year was a tornado, which occurred on November 13th, at Arroyo-Seco, situated on the railroad from Buenos Aires to Rosario, 19 miles from Rosario. Ten persons were killed, and more than 80 wounded, and of 50 or 60 houses in the town only 5 were left intact. The atmospheric conditions preceding the tornado, its progression and its destructive force, all resembled the similar features familiar here in the United States in connection with our own tornadoes. The day had been very hot, and just before the occurrence of the tornado the air was suffocating. The movement was from southwest to northeast. One freight car, weighing over 30,000 pounds, was carried a distance of 98 feet from the railroad track. Calculations as to the force of the wind,