than the quiet words of helpfulness and friendship. There was put in my hands recently by the wife of our former member, still greatly mourned and missed, Prof. George H. Williams, a massive medal of pure gold and beautiful workmanship, newly struck by James Hall, of Albany, to conserve the memory of the long-continued friendship and public support of a distinguished and influential publicist and patron of science, Daniel Wood, of Syracuse, who died many years ago. I do not need to say that Mrs. Williams, who is in deep sentiment still a member of the guild of geologists, values this unique monument to her father's memory. Four such medals were struck to the memory of four public men of this great State, each of whom was in turn two and three generations ago the Mæcenas of this struggling scholar and the patron of his public work. We may call these medals the monuments of the old-fashioned and enduring gratitude of a warm heart; they explain the strong friendship of his friends, and are more significant than the transient dust of conflict. The monument of the man himself is builded in the rocks of New York, a monument more enduring than bronze or gold.

And now I declare closed the proceedings of this afternoon, which, spread upon the archives of this ancient and enduring Society, will furnish a many-sided and appreciative estimate of a great scientific personage.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

MALTHUSIANISM IN ANTHROPOLOGY.

OUR French colleagues are nothing unless practical. They cannot see the use of laboriously developing theories of sociology, and fighting them over in learned societies, unless the product is utilized for the public.

This tendency gave rise, at a recent meeting of the Paris Anthropological Society, to a scene that, allowing for difference in longitude, was not very unlike that which 'Truthful James' describes in the scientific society 'on the Stanislaw.'

M. Paul Robin, a declared 'neo-Malthusian,' commented sharply on a paper of M. Guyot on the diminishing population of France, the burden of which was, 'Faites des enfants.' M. Robin urged that improvident generation is destructive to individual and social development, unworthy of scientific endorsement and ruinous to true happiness. M. Dumont, another member, used some hard words, such as 'a homiside' and 'a degenerate,' with obvious application to M. Robin, who in turn took up the cudgels with alacrity and requested these terms to be noted. 'Degenerates,' he claimed, were brought about by parental indifference to the size of the families engendered by the passions. Self-restraint, here as elsewhere, is noble; and the limitation of families by artifical means, if the end in view is desirable, should be considered legitimate.

It is interesting to observe that anthropologic students recognize that their science is one eminently practical and 'actual.'

CRANIA FROM FLORIDA.

DR. HARRISON ALLEN'S 'Crania from the Mounds of the St. John's River, Florida,' just published in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (4to, pp. 85, Plates XXII.), is the most thorough piece of work on American Craniology which has appeared since Dr. Matthews' studies on the Rio Salado remains.

It is broader than its title, for it not only describes the skulls collected by Mr. Clarence B. Moore from prehistoric Indian graves in Florida, but it enters into minute comparisons of these with others from remote parts of North America, and outlines the science of craniology as taught by the author, and explains the terms which he has selected to express its new departures.

The plates are accurately drawn and beautifully lithographed, aiding greatly the demonstrations of the text.

The classification adopted by Dr. Allen is that of the late Dr. James Aitken Meigs, to which he called attention some time since in the pages of Science. It has been overlooked even by such writers as Topinard and Sergi, although it anticipated both of them in important points.

The functions which determine the form of the skull are considered by Dr. Allen to be mainly three, the growth of the brain, the interstitial changes in the bones, and the action of the muscles attached to the skull. The last mentioned he justly considers deserves more attention than it has received.

The Memoir is rich in such suggestions and should be consulted by all students of the subject.

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CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

THE HIGHEST KITE ASCENT.

Although Science of October 16th contained a brief note on the recent high kite ascent from Blue Hill Observatory, some further facts as to this record-breaking feat will not be out of place here. Reference has already been made in these notes on previous occasions to the kite work now being done at Blue Hill, and attention has been called to the scientific value of this exploration of the free air. On October 8th all previous kite records were broken by an ascent which carried the meteorograph to a height of 9,375 feet above sea level, the greatest altitude previously attained having been 7,333 feet (see Science, Oct. 2, 1896, 489). The ascent began at 9.52 a. m. and ended at 9.05 p. m. Seven Eddy and two Hargrave kites were used, and more than three miles of wire were paid out. The meteorograph entered and passed through the clouds, as is shown by a record of very dry air above the clouds. The temperature fell from 46° on the Hill to 20° at an altitude of 9,375 feet above sea level. The pull on the wire was from 20 to 50 pounds at the start and ranged from 50 to 95 pounds at the highest point. The instrumental record was one of the best yet obtained.

The more the probable future of kite meteorology is considered, the more important does this means of exploring the upper air seem to become. The expense is very trifling as compared with the establishment of mountain observatories, or of balloon ascents, and as mechanical appliances are perfected for winding in the wire, and saving labor in other ways, the work of flying the kites will continually grow less arduous, and the heights attained will become greater. If the upper kites are sent up high enough to be out of reach of the varying and irregular currents near the earth's surface, there seems to be no reason for lowering the instrument at night, and if kept up 24 hours at a time, the results would be still more valuable than those now attained. Indeed it may be that continuous records may in time thus be obtained from the upper air by means of kite meteorographs.

WATERSPOUT PHOTOGRAPHS.

What is probably the best photograph of a waterspout ever taken was secured by Mr. J. N. Chamberlain, of Cottage City, Mass., on August 19th, last. On that day, at about 12:45 p. m., a very perfect waterspout, lasting 12 minutes, formed offshore from Cottage City. The photograph is remarkably clear, and brings out in a striking manner the dark clouds overhead, between which and the surface of the ocean is seen the spout, very symmetrically developed and almost exactly perpendicular. The top of the spout is but slightly enlarged, so that the funnel-shaped is not so marked as it is often figured, while at the bottom the disturbance of the surface water of the