

mate of New England. A circular giving full details has been issued, and may be procured from the undersigned.

SOME INTERESTING REPRINTS.

PROFESSOR HELLMANN, of Berlin, has recently issued three more of his *Neudrucke von Schriften und Karten über Meteorologie und Erdmagnetismus*. These are: No. 7. EVANGELISTA TORRICELLI: *Esperienza dell' 'Argento Vivo*. ACCADEMIA DEL CIMENTO: *Istrumenti per conoscer l'Alterazioni dell' 'Aria*, containing the most important papers relating to the discovery of the barometer, thermometer and hygrometer, some of them in facsimile. No. 8. HALLEY, VON HUMBOLDT, LOOMIS, LEVERRIER and RENOU, *Meteorologische Karten*, being the earliest synoptic weather charts with wind, isotherms and isobars drawn between 1688 and 1864. No. 9. HENRY GELLIBRAND: *A Discourse Mathematical on the Variation of the Magnetical Needle*, containing the discovery of the secular variation of magnetic declination. This is a facsimile of the very rare work published in London in 1635. A few copies of these pamphlets may be had of A. L. Rotch, Blue Hill Observatory, Readville, Mass., at the publisher's price of 3 marks, or 75 cents each, postpaid.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE AGE OF MAN.

In his recently published 'Handbuch der Palæontologie,' Professor Zittel, of Munich, reviews the alleged instances of the discovery of human remains in strata older than the alluvial period. His general conclusion is that "prehistoric researches do not yield positive information or definite results as to the antiquity of the human species." He follows Virchow in rejecting the high antiquity of the Neanderthal skull and denies that any discovery of glacial man in America has yet been made. He

accepts, however, as probably 'fossil or quaternary,' the skull of Eguisheim, the jaw of Naulette and that of the Schipka cave, and the skull of Olmo in Tuscany.

Professor Morselli, who reviews Zittel's conclusions in the 'Archivio per l'Antropologia,' doubts the skull of Olmo, but argues that Zittel is generally too sceptical. He also adds the statement that the fossil human skeleton from the Pampean formation of the Argentine Republic, said by Zittel to be in the Museum of Milan, is not there.

ON SMALL CHIPPED FLINTS.

THERE is a class of small chipped flint objects, with a general similarity of shape and finish, found in England, France, Egypt, India, North Africa and elsewhere. In the *Revue de l'Ecole d'Anthropologie* for November, A. de Mortillet offers a careful study of their forms, geographical distribution, use and antiquity.

They are generally rudely triangular, rhomboidal, or like the segment of a circle. One edge is neatly dressed with secondary chipping, while another is left with the natural cleavage. The length varies from 15 to 35 millimeters. They may have been used as arrow points, as scarificators, as tools, or, in some instances, as fish hooks. In age, they appear to belong to the earliest neolithic period. Their singular similarity does not entail the proof of transmission, but rather of independent development.

While in America there are many specimens generally akin to these described by Mortillet, they cannot be said to represent any distinct culture area or period.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. THOMAS M. DROWN, President of Lehigh University, has been elected President of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

THE students of the Massachusetts Institute