

valley sides; such being the case when the rocks are either homogenous or horizontally stratified. Then the side streams, growing headwards, are accidentally located; and streams of this class have been called *auto-genetic* by McGee. *Insequent* may prove to be a more satisfactory name for such streams, as it is of the same etymological family as *consequent*, *subsequent* and *obsequent*; the latter being defined in the *London Geographical Journal*, V., 1895, 134. As *insequent* has proved servicable in my lectures during the past winter, it is now submitted for trial by others.

NEW TERMS IN GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY.

WITH a protest against the introduction of new terms in geology as a rallying cry, a good friend of all geologists has unfurled his banner to the breeze in a recent number of *SCIENCE*, as if inviting those who are of his opinion to enlist in a crusade against a threatened inundation of scientific verbiage. Those holding other opinions may prefer to enlist in friendly opposition in another camp, under the leadership of a geologist who said some years ago that he felt he had accomplished a good piece of work by introducing a new name for certain deep-seated igneous structures. For one, I dissent entirely from the dictum that new terms are 'evidently nothing more than a useless incumbrance to the science' of geology. New terms are an absolute necessity in any science that is advancing. Useless terms are of course objectionable, but who shall say which are the useless ones? New things and new ideas must have new names. There is too much good new wine to be held in old bottles. 'The common run of educated people in this country' are entirely excusable if they know nothing of such new terms as monadnock and peneplain, or of such older terms as novaculite and bauxite; for their ignorance and their opinions are irrelevant in technical mat-

ters. The investigator and the specialist must be left as free to name their conclusions as to reach them; and they, much better than any one else, can judge of the need of new names. By all means, let them be cautious and avoid unnecessary names; but unless they can number their new finds, as astronomers number new asteroids and new comets, they must name them. Having invented a new name, they may well let it take its chances in the struggle for existence. If it prove acceptable to workers in its field, it will take root and flourish; if not, it will soon wither away and be seen no more. As far as new terms in physiography are concerned, I have had a good share of amusement in watching the fate of certain words that have appeared in recent years. Some have survived and some have perished. Among several that appear to be destined to survive, although not generally used at present, let me commend 'subsequent,' 'adjusted' and 'graded' (ordinary words used in a technical sense), 'obsequent' and 'insequent' (new-made words of English form), and 'doab' and 'cuesta' (imported foreign terms), to the attention of those who maintain that new terms are evidently nothing more than a useless incumbrance to a science. It will be interesting to note the standing of these words ten or twenty years hence. The amount of attention given then or now by teachers and students to physiography—or geomorphy, as some neologists would call it—may be measured by the terseness and precision with which they express the ideas or things represented by these words and their fellows.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

CENTRAL AMERICAN CARIBS.

THE Caribs, who spread so widely over South America, never reached any part of

North or Central America in pre-Columbian times, so far as we know. About a hundred years ago the English deported a large number of them from the island of St. Vincent to the island of Ruatan, in the bay of Hondnras. In the century which has since elapsed they have spread extensively over Central America, retaining largely their language and traits.

An interesting sketch of them is given by Dr. Carl Sapper, in the 'Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie,' Bd. X. The changes in their dialect by loss of forms and the introduction of new words from various European tongues are numerous, but its affinity to the Carib of the islands is unmistakable. Their arts also are South American.

The latter feature is further illustrated by an article from the pen of the editor of the *Archiv*, Dr. J. D. E. Schmeltz, on the utensils of the Caribs of Surinam, Dutch Guiana. It has an especial interest as tracing the development of the bird-motive in Caribbean art products. Several colored plates explain to the eye the descriptions in the text.

THE ANTHROPOZOIC FORMATION.

THE strata in geologic deposits which include the remains of man are called 'the anthropozoic formation.' To divide this accurately, with reference to sequence of time, on the one hand, and development of culture, on the other, is a leading task of the anthropologist. Professor Woldrich, of Prague, has proposed a scheme for the area of central Europe, which is published in the 'Centralblatt für Anthropologie,' 1897, Heft 2. It is useful as a general standard and it merits an epitomized reproduction here.

The Anthropozoic Formation.

I. The Diluvial Epoch.

A. Palæolithic period.

1. Preglacial.

2. Glacial and Interglacial.

3. Post-glacial.

B. Mesolithic period.

II. The Alluvial Epoch.

C. Neolithic period.

1. Old or atrymolithic (no bored stones).

2. Middle or trymolithic (bored stones begin).

3. Late, with the stones dressed to art shapes.

D. Metallic Period.

1. Bronze age.

2. Iron age.

3. Protohistoric age.

4. Historic age.

The author adds numerous examples of these several divisions from the layers of central Europe, and further specifications of their characteristics. He dismisses the 'hiatus' between the palæolithic and neolithic maintained by some archæologists, believing the development to have been gradual and uniform.

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NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

THE statement is frequently found in the text-books that when platinum-silver alloys are treated with nitric acid a considerable quantity (5-9%) of platinum follows the silver into solution. In the Proceedings of the Chemical Society Mr. John Spiller gives the results of experiments on such alloys, containing from 0.25 to 12% platinum. In dilute nitric acid (1.2 sp. gr.) only about 0.25% of platinum was dissolved; with ordinary concentrated acid (1.42 sp. gr.) the maximum platinum dissolved was 1.25% and the average 1%. It thus appears that the ordinary statement is incorrect.

PROFESSOR RAMSAY recently read a paper before the Royal Society, detailing a series of experiments which show that helium