

solved the problem of acclimatization, a problem which so far has baffled physicians, and which has even been declared insoluble; but which, if ever solved, will change the complexion of the earth's surface and inaugurate a new era in the history of mankind. A broader knowledge of physical man will throw light on that most intricate and obscure problem of miscegenation or race-intermarriage, a problem which, it has been declared, is exceeded by no other in its effects on the 'future prosperity or failure of the human species.'

The study of physical anthropology teaches us that not only are all men not born equal, but that tribes and races and nations are inevitably doomed to give way and perish before the advance of their more fortunate fellow-men; that the time is not far distant when a certain few races will have peopled the globe, when no survivor of the native population will exist on a territory which covers an area of twenty-five million square miles and which, four hundred years ago, contained one hundred million inhabitants.

To know physical man, his past history, his present possibilities, his future destiny—such is the aim and value of physical anthropology, but not least in value is to teach him his place in nature.

GEORGE A. DORSEY.

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANATOMISTS.

THE ninth annual session of the Association was held in the Columbian University Scientific School, Washington, D. C., Tuesday to Thursday, May 4 to 6, 1897, in conjunction with the other societies comprising the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Frank Baker, President of the Association, presided at the several meetings. The following members were present at

some time during the session: Baker, Bevan, Blake, Bosher, Browning, Carr, Dawbarn, Gerrish, Gill, Hamann, Hewson, Hodge, Hunt, Huntington, Hutchinson, Kemp, Lamb, Leidy, Mears, Miller, Mixter, Moran, Parkhill, Reisinger, Roberts, Shepherd, West and Wilder—28 in all.

The Association was called to order by the President who delivered an address, which will be printed in *SCIENCE*.

Dr. D. S. Lamb, Secretary and Treasurer, submitted his report for the period which had elapsed since the last session, December 27 and 28, 1895, which was accepted. The following are extracts: "No meeting was held in December, 1896, in view of the fact that this Association is a member of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, which meets in this city in May every third year. The Executive Committee believes that if we should meet both in December and the following May the short interval between the meetings would imperil the success of the May meeting, at the same time regretting that by postponing the December meeting we lose the opportunity of attending the sessions of the Society of American Naturalists and the affiliated societies. This is the second time this postponement has occurred and in the nature of things seems inevitable every third year.

"Since the last meeting three members have died. Sir George Murray Humphry, an honorary member, professor of surgery and late professor of anatomy in the University of Cambridge, England, died September 24, 1896. He is perhaps best known as the author of a classic work on 'The Skeleton.' Dr. Charles Heitzmann, of New York City, at one time lecturer on morbid anatomy in the University of Vienna, and who afterwards conducted a Histologic and Pathologic Laboratory in New York City, author of a work on anatomy, having occasion to go to Europe for his health, resigned September

16, 1896. Sometime afterwards I saw a notice of his death while abroad ; the exact date I cannot give. Professor Edward Drinker Cope, professor of vertebrate paleontology in the University of Pennsylvania, and author of many works on American Paleontology, died in Philadelphia, April 12, 1897."

The Executive Committee reported favorably on the following applications for membership: Drs. V. P. Blair, J. A. Blake, Thomas Flavin, C. M. Miller, J. T. Moore, and E. W. Reisinger and Mr. C. T. Ward; all of whom were elected.

Dr. Lamb, from the Committee on Anatomical Peculiarities of the Negro, reported a 'List of Items' and 'Letter of Instructions' to accompany the same. Dr. Wilder suggested several changes in the terminology, which were accepted by Dr. Lamb for the Committee. On motion of Dr. Huntington, the Association ordered that copies of the report should be printed and distributed among the members for their information and criticism along with the statement that the *terminology* should not be considered as necessarily being that which the Association might ultimately recommend.

On motion of Dr. Huntington, the annual dues were increased to three dollars; the increase to begin with the year 1897-98.

Dr. Huntington, of the Medical Department of Columbia University, New York City, then made remarks on 'Corrosion Anatomy, Technique and Mass;' illustrated by the material and specimens. The subject was discussed by Drs. Wilder and Dawbarn.

Dr. Lamb showed the following specimens and made remarks on the same: Specimen of fissured sternum; two specimens of sterna of young children; an extra carpal bone; bilateral bony ankylosis of jaw; and a penis, showing exaggerated papillæ on corona. Discussed by Drs. Wilder, Dawbarn, Gill, Baker and Huntington.

A paper by Dr. B. B. Stroud, of Cornell University, on 'Comparative Anatomy of the Cerebellum' was, in Dr. Stroud's absence, read by Dr. Wilder. It was illustrated by photographs and charts. Discussed by Drs. Gill, Baker, Huntington and Wilder.

At the meeting on May 5th Dr. Gerrish was elected as a member of the Executive Committee, to fill the vacancy made by the retirement under the constitution of Dr. Gill.

The Secretary stated that after the adjournment the previous day there was a consultation of several members and it was thought appropriate to send to Dr. Allen, who had just undergone an operation for appendicitis, a telegram conveying the sympathy and good wishes of the Association. The Secretary had sent the telegram. On motion of Dr. Wilder this action was approved.

Dr. Wilder then made remarks on 'The Definitive Encephalic Segments and their Designation.' Illustrated by photographs and charts. Discussed by Drs. Gill, Gerrish, Carr, Baker and Huntington. In connection with this subject Dr. J. A. Blake showed photographs of a brain with double precommissure.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson, of Buffalo, read a paper on 'A Possible Morphologic Basis for Diseases of the Lungs.' Discussed by Drs. Huntington and Baker.

The paper of Dr. Stroud on 'Brain Preservation' was read by title.

Dr. Huntington made remarks on 'Ventral Version of Secondary Fore-brain.' Illustrated by photographs. Discussed by Dr. Wilder.

Dr. William Browning, of Brooklyn, read a paper on 'Examination of Spinal Efferents for the Cerebro-spinal Fluid.' Discussed by Drs. Wilder and Baker.

Adjourned.

At 5 p. m. the statue of Prof. Dr. Samuel D. Gross in the Smithsonian Park and

near the Army Medical Museum was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies, and at 8:15 p. m. the President of the Congress, Prof. Dr. Wm. H. Welch, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, delivered the Presidential address, which has been published in SCIENCE.

On May 6th the Executive Committee, through the Secretary, reported a recommendation that the next meeting of the Association should be held at Cornell University in December, 1897, in conjunction with the Society of American Naturalists and other affiliated societies. On motion the Association adopted the report.

The President called attention to the fact, that inasmuch as the Congress met every three years, the election for delegate to its Executive Committee every two years seemed to cause some confusion. After some discussion Dr. Hewson moved that hereafter the election for delegate occur every *three* years, and this was adopted. Dr. Wilder, from the Committee on Anatomical Nomenclature, reported progress. Report accepted. Dr. Gerrish, from the Committee auditing the Treasurer's account, reported the accounts correct.

Dr. Huntington made remarks on 'The Cerebral Convolutions of two Brains from Natives of British Guiana.' Illustrated by casts and photographs. Discussed by Drs. Baker and Wilder.

Dr. F. J. Shepherd, of Montreal, showed a specimen of double internal cuneiform bone of right foot of a white woman aged 17; and photographs of hands and feet of same subject, showing multiple digits.

Dr. W. P. Carr, of Washington, showed some anatomical models on a large scale illustrating the circulation of the blood through the heart, the formation of a blood-vessel, and the corona radiata. Discussed by Drs. Wilder, Huntington and Shepherd.

Dr. Blake read a 'Contribution to the

Topographical Anatomy of the Mediastinum Superior Thoracic Aperture.' Discussed by Drs. Baker, Wilder and Huntington.

Dr. Addinell Hewson, of Philadelphia, showed the forms of record used in the dissecting rooms of Jefferson College, Philadelphia, Pa., and made remarks thereon. Discussed by Drs. Baker, Huntington, Reisinger and Wilder.

Dr. C. A. Hamann, of Cleveland, showed specimens of congenital malformation of the extremities. Discussed by Drs. Huntington and Geo. T. Kemp.

The Association then adjourned *sine die*.

After the adjournment, at the suggestion of Dr. Kemp, Dr. G. C. Huber, of the University of Michigan, exhibited slides showing the terminal endings of the nerves in the epithelium of the urinary bladder and the sensory nerve endings of the muscle.

D. S. LAMB,
Secretary.

SYSTEMATIC CLASSIFICATION OF TEXTILE AND OTHER USEFUL FIBERS OF THE WORLD.*

THE advantages of a broader and more systematic classification for textile and other useful fibers has long been appreciated by the author. While engaged in the preparation of a descriptive catalogue of fibers of the world in which over a thousand species of useful fiber plants are enumerated, the necessity for a better classification became apparent, and the scheme herewith presented was devised. The term fiber is popularly understood to relate to those forms of filamentous substance that can be spun and woven, or twisted into cordage, though it should not be employed in so restricted a sense. In fact, many of the true fibers are used in other ways, for there are kinds of cordage, and even cloth substi-

*Abstract of a paper read before the Philosophical Society of Washington, by Chas. Richards Dodge.