

At high water one can sail over many of the shoals of the inner part of the sound, but at low water the course from the mainland to the banks channel is a meandering one. The shoals are alive with worms, *Arenicola*, *Diopatra*, *Clymenella* and other annelids, along with the great *Balanoglossus*, were dug up in quick succession. The reddish egg masses of *Arenicola* lay about in abundance on the flats. The low water collecting in the shoal part of the sound is very easy. Pushing along in a skiff through the shallow channels between the flats, one finds starfish (*Asterias*), the red and white sea-urchins (*Arbacia* and *Toxopneustes*), abundant crabs and other common bottom forms. Scattered about over the bottom in great numbers is the interesting anemone, *Cerianthus americanus*. The tubes that were dug up were something over a foot in length; they contained animals, which of course had greatly contracted, about six inches long. This distinctively Southern actinia, originally found on the South Carolina coast by Professor Louis Agassiz (Verrill, Revision of the Polypi of E. Coast of U. S., p. 32. Mem. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. I.), has been observed by Mr. Wm. Stimpson and Professor McMurrich at Beaufort, N. C., where I have seen it myself. It is, however, far more abundant at Wrightsville, and any one wishing to work out the life-history of this remarkable form could find no better locality than the latter place. I may add that the reproductive organs of the specimens I collected were very small. The breeding season probably comes on later.

Just before high water I towed in the neighborhood of the old inlet. As I had anticipated from previous experiences in Beaufort harbor at this time of year, not much of interest was in the water. Small hydromedusæ, crustacean larvæ, abundant *Sagittas*, make up the tow stuff. Later in the year, doubtless as at Beaufort, the

towing is excellent. I am told that abundant large jelly-fish and Portuguese men-of-war make their appearance in August and September.

The sea-beach has a very gentle slope, and judging in part from specimens sent me by Mr. Chas. M. Whitlock, of Wilmington, many things of interest are to be had just beyond the line of breakers, where the sea is frequently calm enough to permit collecting. In the main the Wrightsville fauna is evidently very similar to that of Beaufort (see the lists in Studies of Biol. Lab. Johns Hopkins Univ., Vol. IV., No. 2, and the list of annelids by Professor Andrews, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. XIV., No. 852). I may add that some of the local collectors would recognize, from a description, many of the striking forms, such as *Chaetopterus*, *Chalina arbuscula*, *Leptogorgia virgulata*, all of which may be had here.

H. V. WILSON.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

PETRIE'S 'NEW RACE' IN EGYPT.

Two years ago (SCIENCE, August 28, 1895) I described the discovery by Mr. Flinders Petrie in Middle Egypt of remains which he attributed to an invading race about the twelfth dynasty, and which he was inclined to believe were Libyan stock.

Since then there has been considerable discussion of the subject, the general trend of which was in favor of Petrie's view. Dr. G. Schweinfurth, however, in the *Verhandlungen* of the Berlin Anthropological Society for January, attacks this theory, and claims that the remarkable stone artefacts unearthed in the tombs of the 'New Race' are such as are made to-day by the Ababde in the Thebaïs. He is inclined to the belief that the ancestors of these tribes in prehistoric times were the so-called 'New Race' and came from the Bedcha stock, near the coast of the Red Sea.

There are, however, a number of facts overlooked by Schweinfurth which indicate that the 'New Race' were conquerors of an older Egyptian civilization; nor is it likely that the Bedchas would have occupied so exclusively the left bank of the Nile, when their homes were east of its right bank. Petrie's supposition is still the most probable of any offered.

A PHILOSOPHIC SECT.

IN the May number of the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, Mr. H. Balfour describes the sect of the Aghori fakirs in India. Their doctrine and their practice are based on the philosophic principle of the fundamental equality of all things, and, therefore, they are sticklers for absolute indifferentism. They disregard caste and creed, and receive accessions from the votaries of all religions. They are mendicants and despise property and labor. They eat with indifference carrion, offal or excrement, and as a cup or dish they use a fragment of a human skull, often quite fresh. In creed they are monotheists, believing in one god only, and have no respect for persons except the teacher or *guru*, who has initiated them into the sect. He gives each disciple a name, thus blotting out his past self.

It seems somewhat inconsistent that they should have a form of marriage, but other writers speak of their women as prostitutes. Originally, they seem to have been worshippers of Devi, the wife of Siva, in whose cult obscenity and bestiality were pushed to their furthest extremes.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

AN account is given in *Nature* of the meeting of the International Congress on Technical Education held in London, June 15th-17th. The opening day was devoted to the teaching of chemistry. In one paper

Dr. Otto N. Witt, of the Polytechnic School of Berlin, said he could not admit any fundamental difference in the methods of research of pure and applied chemistry; consequently he could not admit the necessity for a difference of instruction for the two. A well-organized instruction in pure chemical science would be the best preparation of any young chemist for his future career. Schools for producing specialists are not wanted; specialism comes as a matter of course in later life. Chemists are needed who embrace their science as a whole, and who are incapable of separating either practice from theory or theory from practice. Dr. Gladstone, speaking of evening schools, said that when the school was situated in the neighborhood of factories it would be allowable and even desirable that the illustrations should be chosen with some reference to the prevailing industry. This is a principle capable of wider application.

In a paper by Professor Lunge, of Zurich, the writer held that, to raise English chemical industry to the foremost rank, it is necessary that the technical management of chemical factories should not be left in the hands of 'rule-of-thumb' men, but should be entrusted to real chemists. These men should have a much fuller education than the majority of chemists seem to obtain at present in Great Britain, which means that they must spend more time and money on their training than they generally do. At college the student should receive a thorough training in scientific chemistry, taking this in its widest meaning, not merely as a 'testing' exercise. Next to this, but not to the same extent, he should be taught physics, mineralogy, technology, mechanics and the elements of engineering. Professor Lunge held that it was unwise for the common workmen or even the foremen to have a knowledge of chemistry or technology, as it is their duty