

being about three times as great on the south and west margins as along the north and east coast, where two hundred feet appear to be the limit of raised marine terraces and beaches. Appended to the report are lists of the mammalia, birds, food fishes and plants found in Labrador, as well as an appendix by Mr. Ferrier on the microscopical structure of some of the rocks collected, and one by Mr. Eaton on the meteorology of the peninsula.

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*L' Evolution de commerce dans les diverses races humaines.* Par CH. LETOURNEAU, Professeur à L' École d' Anthropologie. Paris, Vigot Freres. 1897. Pp. 581.

Professor Letourneau has made it his special branch to write about the development of arts and institutions. In the volume before us he takes up commerce, and aims to show its beginning and its growth in the various races and nations of humanity. Beginning with animals of lower species he is obliged to acknowledge that he finds no traces of commerce among them, and tells but one doubtful story of the possible interchange of values between a bird and a man.

In the lower races he discovers still little which is really commerce. When they give in exchange they appear to think each party makes a true gift to the other, and the mercantile idea is not present. Perhaps here he overlooks a peculiarity of human nature which exists in the highest as well as the lowest civilization. There is, for instance, a sort of pride which while expecting exchange on equal terms declines to recognize it as such. It is illustrated in the American custom of 'treating.'

Leaving this aside, the author pursues his investigations among the negro races of Papua and Africa, discovering in them a strong commercial instinct. In Polynesia he recognizes a widespread commerce, but his chapter on that of Ancient America is very much short of what the reader has a right to expect. The authorities whom he quotes are mostly second-hand, such as Prescott and Bancroft, and he does not seem to be acquainted with the valuable articles of Professor Rau on this topic. Hence we are not surprised to find on page 173 the assertion

that the Indians considered commerce of the least possible importance; whereas, every one acquainted with the facts knows that it was one of their most active avocations.

He is more at home when dealing with the early commerce of China, Japan, Egypt and the Arabs, who next occupy his attention. Of their activity in this direction he presents a well written sketch. The classical epochs of Greece and Rome are described in their commercial relations, and from them he passes on to mediæval and modern life, of which he gives a hasty outline. His final chapter is intended to embrace the survey of his results and the forecast of what commerce may be in the future. In this prophetic utterance he indulges in some of those dreams of a possible future society with which he delights to amuse his readers, but for which he acknowledges his hopes are faint.

The work is well printed and has a carefully arranged table of contents and a sufficient index.

D. G. BRINTON.

*How to Know the Shore Birds (Limicolæ) of North America.* By CHARLES B. CORY. Boston, Little, Brown & Co. 1897. Small 4to. Pp. 89. Price in paper, 75 cents.

*How to Know the Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America.* By the same author and publisher. Pp. 95. Price in paper, \$1.00.

These publications are a departure in the way of ornithological literature. Each consists of a key, with figures of heads, bills and tails, followed by plain descriptions of the species, with additional illustrations and a paragraph or two on the range and eggs. The illustrations are half-tone reproductions of wash drawings by Edward Knobel, and while not equal in artistic merit to those of Fuertes, Ridgway or Thompson are excellent for purposes of identification, and some are admirable as pictures, particularly the one of a group of Labrador ducks. In the case of the shore birds, where the beginner is often confused by strikingly different seasonal plumages, both summer and winter dress are shown; and in the case of the water birds having different sexual plumages, pictures of both male and female are given.

The keys do not conform to the modern