

differences, and that the Nugsuak plant beds filled up hollows in the gneisses, and were not very different now in their position as regards the sea from that occupied at the time of their deposition.

(*To be concluded.*)

J. F. KEMP.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

THE SECTION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT ITHACA.

IN accordance with an arrangement made at Detroit, a meeting of Section H (Anthropology) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Cornell University, at Ithaca, December 29 and 30, 1897.

On Wednesday morning, December 29th, the Section organized with Vice-President W J McGee in the chair and Dr. A. Hrdlicka as Secretary *pro tem*. Immediately afterward the session adjourned to permit the members to attend the meeting of the American Psychological Association then in progress, and to unite with the American Society of Naturalists during the afternoon.

The Section reassembled for the reading of papers Thursday morning. The first communication was a full account of the elaborate 'Mythology of the Bella Coola,' by Dr. Franz Boas. After describing the beliefs of this remarkably interesting Indian tribe, the author proceeded to a comparison of these beliefs, and the ceremonies by which they are attended, with those of neighboring tribes, and discussed the development of myths in general as well as the special lines of mythic development traced among the Bella Coola. Comments were made by Dr. Farrand, Professor Cattell and Dr. Beauchamp.

This was followed by a paper on the 'Loss of Aboriginal Arts and its Significance,' by Rev. W. M. Beauchamp, in the course of which the author emphasized

the transformation in the aboriginal arts of central New York attending the incursion of conquering tribes.

On behalf of the Committee of the Association on 'The Ethnography of the White Race in the United States,' Dr. Boas made a brief report of progress.

The next communication was an illustrated account of 'Dwellings of the Saga Time in Iceland, Greenland and Vineland,' by Miss Cornelia Horsford. Beginning with a description of the Norse Sagas, covering the period A. D. 875-1025, Miss Horsford noted the recent researches concerning the habitations described in the Sagas. None of these have thus far been identified in Denmark, Sweden or Norway, but several have been identified with considerable certainty in Iceland, chiefly through the investigations of the Icelandic Antiquarian Society, and also in Greenland, while a few have been identified with fair certainty in the 'Vineland the Good' of the Sagas—what is now eastern Massachusetts. The houses of the three countries were illustrated and shown to be essentially similar by means of photographs and sketches of the ruins, and were identified in design and other characteristics with the house-types still surviving in Iceland. The paper was discussed by Dr. Boas, who pointed out the essential distinctness of the habitations described from those of the aborigines of America, including the Eskimo. Remarks concerning the extent and thoroughness of the investigation were also made by Dr. Beauchamp and the presiding officer.

The afternoon session began with a brief paper on 'Eskimo Boot Strings,' by John Murdoch. This was followed by an extended 'Preliminary Report on the Somatology of the Tribes of Northwestern Mexico,' by Dr. A. Hrdlicka, in the course of which a large number of crania from Mexico and the United States were described, while the distribution of the types

was indicated. Dr. Boas and others contributed supplementary information.

'Views of the Paleolithic Question,' by Rev. Stephen D. Peet, and 'The Collection of Anthropometric Data,' by Professor J. McKeen Cattell, were read by title.

The next communication was presented under the title 'Conditions attending the Rise of Civilization,' by W J McGee. The author pointed out that the development of civilization on the shores of the Mediterranean was attended by growing recognition of proprietary right in land, together with concomitant recognition of the territorial rights of others, and the gradual growth of law relating to boundaries, monuments and inheritances. He gave special emphasis to the altruistic character of the laws regulating territorial interest. Considering, then, the characteristics of life in desert regions, he showed that the tendency of common strife against hard physical environment is toward the development of an intimate cooperation and interaction of such sort as to simulate the altruism of civilization. He then touched briefly on the influence of desert conditions in promoting the recognition first of custom and then of law corresponding to the customs and laws of advanced culture. The communication was discussed by Professor J. Mark Baldwin, Dr. Farrand and Dr. Boas.

An informal symposium followed on the question 'Will Winter Meetings Meet the Need of American Anthropologists for Organization?' It resulted in a decision to recommend to the Association that provision be made for a meeting of the Section of Anthropology to be held in New York during the Christmas holidays of 1898. Incidentally the need of a medium for the publication of anthropologic papers received consideration, and a special committee was appointed and given power to act toward the establishment or adoption of an American anthropological journal, the commit-

tee consisting of Messrs. Boas (chairman), Brinton, Putnam, Frank Baker and McGee.

The Section adjourned at 5 p. m. to meet with others at Boston.

W J MCGEE,
Vice-President Section H.

ALONZO S. KIMBALL.

PROFESSOR ALONZO S. KIMBALL, who was for a quarter of a century professor of physics in the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was born at Center Harbor, New Hampshire, in 1843. He was prepared for college at New Hampton Academy, and was graduated from Amherst College in 1866. In 1871 he was called to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, which had just graduated its first class. He organized the department of physics, and the Institute was among the first in the country to provide systematic instruction in a physical laboratory. After seven or eight years of great activity and usefulness, shown alike in the development of the important department of which he had charge, and in a series of valuable original contributions to physical science, he was, in 1879, attacked by a painful disease, which, in spite of the highest medical skill in both this country and Europe, proved to be incurable, and from the effects of which he died on December 2, 1897. Notwithstanding the steady progress of a malady which entailed nearly continuous suffering, Professor Kimball, through all these years, discharged the constantly increasing duties of his position to the great satisfaction of the officers of the Institute and of the hundreds of pupils to whom his life and work were always inspiring. In addition to his regular work in Worcester, he was for several years a lecturer at Mt. Holyoke College, of which institution he was for many years and at the time of his death a Trustee. While the Salisbury Laboratories of the Polytechnic Institute were being built he spent a year