

cerned withstand vicissitudes, as of warmth or moisture. It is to be observed that in *Cardamine*, *Sanicula*, *Ammi*, *Chærophyllum*, *Bellis*, *Lactuca*, *Vaccinium*, *Erica*, *Lysimachia*, etc., there are either no species but the endemic ones, or the other species are rare or local—probably usually of recent introduction.

We are naturally led to ask why the ancient fauna and flora, which must have been composed of a fair number of species, was so little able to acquire or preserve distinctive characters, when such islands as the Caymans in the West Indies, only a short distance from land, have many peculiar species, even of birds. One of the endemic beetles has its nearest ally in Madagascar, while one of the mosses is declared by M. Cardot to be *Philonotis obtusata*, described from Madagascar. These and other indications suggest that the population of the islands included, at least in part, forms which were not able to withstand the competition of westward-migrating types upon the continents, and which were liable to be driven out from their last stronghold on the islands by those same types as soon as they appeared upon the scene. It is probable that long isolated forms might lose the power of resisting disease or evading enemies, so that when these reached the islands continental types introduced at about the same time would have the advantage. Still again, if the islands have undergone changes of level and consequently of area, the competition must at times have become very severe, leading to the extinction of many species when the area was reduced; while an increased area would afford exceptional facilities for the immigrants.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

MESILLA PARK, N. M., February 23, 1898.

*The Antiquities of Tennessee and the Adjacent States.* By YATES P. THRUSTON. Cincinnati, The Robert Clarke Co. 1897. Second Edition. Illustrated. Pp. 369.

It is only by a considerable stretch of bibliographic courtesy that this can be called a second edition of Mr. Thruston's book. It is, in fact, the signatures of the first edition, to which some pages, distinguished by letters, have been added, and two new plates. The

index does not include the additional material. As a treatise on the specimens of aboriginal art discovered in the area of the State, this volume must be preferred to others. The author has endeavored to verify the finds and to avoid the dangers of deception from 'fakes.' He is right in his conclusion that the remains reveal a condition of culture higher than that which obtained among the resident tribes at the period of the discovery. D. G. BRINTON.

*Beiträge zur Völkerkunde der Deutschen Schutzgebiete.* By FELIX VON LUSCHAN. Berlin, Dietrich Reimer. 1897. Mit 46 Tafeln und 48 Text Abbildungen. Folio. Pp. 87.

In this handsomely published volume Dr. von Luschan presents a mass of interesting material relating to various African tribes, notably the Massai, Swaheli, Togo, Cameruns, and also the New Britains. The earlier portions are devoted to physical anthropology, the measurements having been made in accordance with a very complete scheme which is detailed on page 6. Among the subjects may be noted two female dwarfs, in size about that of a nine-year-old child, but in functions, developed women. They apparently belonged to some of the interior pygmy races. The numerous accurate photographs which accompany these measurements add to their interest.

The ethnographic material represents a variety of articles of native manufacture. Among the decorations is a well marked 'svastika,' from the Togo district, undoubtedly locally developed there, and which is clearly traceable to a conventionalized lizard (p. 46). Such examples should suggest caution to those writers who are wont to make so much of this common figure.

Another object (described and depicted, pp. 65, 66) is the 'throwing-stick.' It is common in New Holland and in various parts of Oceania, and, as is well known, recurs in several areas of North and South America. Mortillet has pointed out that it was familiar to the men of the 'reindeer period' of France; but the idea of von Luschan that, wherever it occurs, we should suppose it borrowed from those ancient hunters, will scarcely recommend itself to sober readers.