

connected with the continent of America and were the result of enormous subsidence. Previously the opinion was almost universal that they had resulted from elevation and volcanic action. He supported his views in a number of papers and lectures; and, while meeting with strong opposition, he had the satisfaction of making several distinguished converts.

About a year ago we were called upon to mourn the departure of a leader in the study of the beings of long-gone ages, Professor E. D. Cope; now paleontology has suffered the loss of Dr. George Baur, cut off in the midst of a brilliant career.

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#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### THE LATEST ASIATIC-AMERICAN AFFINITY.

It is painful to see good ink and paper wasted to prove affinities between American and Asiatic tribes, when the only fact proved is the ignorance of him who asserts them.

The latest example is M. Ed. Blanc, who in the *Journal de la Société des Américanistes*, of Paris, No. 3, undertakes to exhibit the relationship between the Nahuatl, spoken by the Aztecs, etc., in Mexico and the language of the Avars in the northern Caucasus! He also considers the incidents of this imaginary migration.

When, by turning to General von Erckert's fine volume on the Caucasian languages or the earlier works of Professor F. Müller, M. Blanc could have learned that the Avar (Awarisch) is a well recognized member of the Lesghian linguistic stock and is quite familiar to students of such matters, it is scarcely pardonable that he should have burdened the pages of a scientific periodical with his fantastic hypothesis.

##### THE STUDY OF LOCAL ETHNOGRAPHY.

PROFESSOR M. D. LEARNED, of the Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania, has undertaken the study of the ethnography of Pennsylvania on lines which it were well to have generally adopted. He distributed circulars of inquiry relating to ethnographic material, such as dialectic peculiarities; ballads; local history, traditions and folk-lore; changes in names of persons and places; collections of books and antiquities; manuscripts, etc.

The answers he has received have been gratifying, and he expects to incorporate the results in a series of publications treating separately each ethnic element, the German, English, Swedish, Welsh, etc. Ethnographic charts will be added 'setting forth the cultural epochs and racial complexion of the present population and indicating the speech boundaries.'

This is in the line of what the proposed 'Ethnographic Survey of the United States' hoped to accomplish. (For further particulars see the *University Bulletin*, Vol. II., No. 4, May, 1898.)

##### WOMEN AS ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDENTS.

We have in Washington the only 'Woman's Anthropological Society' in the world, but by no means all the women who study anthropology.

The roll of French anthropologists contain not a few names of the fair sex who have accomplished notable work. Madame Clementine Royer, of Paris, is one of distinction; Madame Chantre, of Lyon, has published excellent anthropometric material; and in the last *Bulletin* of the Anthropological Society of Paris for 1897 Madame Martin presents an instructive study of the statistics of the population of France in 1895, and Madame Chellier a series of anthropometric observations from Aurès, French Africa.

It might be difficult to name an equal array among the Germans; but in the *Globus*, May 21st, Dr. the Countess von Lin-

den, Assistant in the Zoological Institute at Tübingen, repels with a keen pen and abundant knowledge an attempt of an anthropologist to shove her sex into the background by an appeal to 'the laws of nature.'

#### ON STONE PENDANTS.

THERE is a class of stone relics polished on the surface and pierced with an orifice. They were evidently intended to be worn around the neck. For this reason they are in Europe classed as amulets, with us as 'gorgets.' In the *Prähistorische Blätter*, No. 3, Professor Mehlis describes and figures several found in the Palatinate. They closely resemble American types, and are about two inches in length.

In an excellent article by Professor Sophus Müller in the *Mémoires of the Royal Society of Danish Antiquaries*, 1897, the author reviews a number of new types of artefacts from the Stone Age. Among them is a series in amber of perforated objects evidently intended to be worn by suspension. The two most remarkable identified by him as amulets are faithful copies of the stone axe of the period; and Professor Müller considers them 'of particular importance as showing that the axe served as a symbol during the Stone Age.'

The same fact has been recently demonstrated of some American stone pendants by Mr. F. H. Cushing, quite independently of Professor Müller's observations.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AFFILIATED WITH THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE scientific societies meeting before or simultaneously with the Association and more or less closely affiliated with it are as follows:

*The American Mathematical Society* will meet on Friday and Saturday, August 19th and 20th,

in room 11, Rogers Building, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. F. N. Cole, Columbia University, Secretary.

*The American Forestry Association* will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 23d and 24th, in Horticultural Hall, 101 Tremont street, Boston, the official headquarters of this Association. Francis H. Appleton, Boston, Mass., President.

*The Geological Society of America* will meet on Tuesday, August 23d, at the same time and place with Section E. J. J. Stevenson, New York, N. Y., President; H. L. Fairchild, Rochester, N. Y., Secretary.

*The American Chemical Society* will hold its seventeenth general meeting on Monday and Tuesday, August 22d and 23d. The first session will convene immediately after the organization of Section C of the A. A. A. S., and in the same room, on Monday morning. On Monday afternoon at 4.30 the Society will give place to Section C, in order that the chemists may all have the opportunity of listening to the Vice-President's address before that body. The whole of Tuesday will be devoted to the American Chemical Society, and the remainder of the week to Section C. Charles E. Munroe, Columbian University, Washington, D. C., President; Albert C. Hale, 551 Putnam avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., Secretary.

*The Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science* will meet in Horticultural Hall, 101 Tremont street, on Friday and Saturday, August 19th and 20th; C. S. Plumb, Lafayette, Ind., Secretary.

*The Association of Economic Entomologists* will hold its tenth annual meeting in the Natural History Building on August 19th and 20th. Herbert Osborn, Ames, Iowa, President; C. L. Marlatt, Washington, D. C., Secretary.

*The Botanical Club of the Association* will meet at a time to be announced.

*The Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education* will hold its fifth meeting in room 22 of the Walker Building of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, August 18th, 19th and 20th. J. B. Johnson, St. Louis, Mo., President; Albert Kingsbury, Durham, N. H., Secretary.

*The American Folk-Lore Society* will meet