

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

LATER CRIMINOLOGY.

A FEW years ago most of us had considerable faith in Lombroso's 'criminal type.' We looked at ear-lobes and finger-nails, and thought we detected in them the 'stigmata of degeneration.'

This illusion was lost when it was found that in fact the criminal was about as well formed as the jury or the Judge. The 'criminal type' fell into oblivion.

But the 'criminal mind' remained. The psychology of evil doers must have something in it radically different from that of 'respectable people.' We forgot the force of the Rev. John Newton's saying, when he saw a thief led to the gallows: "There goes John Newton, but for the grace of God."

Now, however, such authorities as Näcke and Baer and Dallemagne have pronounced the whole edifice of 'criminal psychology' a phantom and a delusion. Criminals are just like other people of their sex, age and condition in life. They are tempted, fall and are caught (especially the last), and that is the only difference.

Such is the summary of the case in the *Centralblatt für Anthropologie*, 1898, Heft II.

THE DELUSION OF 'ATAVISM.'

'ATAVISM,' or 'reversion,' in the dialect of the evolutionist means a recurrence to a more or less remote ancestral type, and in theory it is brought about through the 'immortality,' as it has been boldly called (by Lapouge), of the germplasm (*Keimplasma*).

Some years ago (1894) I urged in a paper before the American Association that most so-called reversions in the human skeleton have other and better explanations. Now comes a Dutch physician, Dr. Kohlbrugge, and maintains that all alleged atavistic anomalies are merely neutral variations due to ordinary causes (mal-nutrition,

use, disuse, etc.); and, as they vary from a mean in one direction or the other, they assume a deceptive appearance of regressive or progressive variation, the former reaching to what has fallaciously been considered reversion and atavism. For this he brings considerable evidence. This book is published at Utrecht by Scrinerius, and is well reviewed in the *Centralblatt für Anthropologie*, 1898, Heft. 2.

ORIGIN OF THE CLIFF DWELLINGS.

IN the *Bulletin* of the American Geographical Society, No. 2, 1898, Mr. Cosmos Mindeleff has a thoughtful article on the origin of the cliff dwellings.

He shows with satisfactory clearness that they are 'the direct result of the peculiar geographic environment.' Like the Pueblos, they are completely adapted to the country in which they are found. Only the 'kivas' or estufas may be regarded as a transplanted feature. These are 'undoubtedly a survival from the time when the people lived in circular lodges, like the Navahoes of to-day.' Many of the sacred ceremonies could be properly performed only in a circular chamber. The cliff ruins exhibit a long sequence of time, but not a development.

He concludes with the general maxim: "The study of an Indian art is the study of the conditions under which it was developed."

In this connection I should mention a carefully prepared article in the *American Anthropologist* for May, by Walter Hough, on 'Environmental Interrelations in Arizona.'

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

EXTENSION OF THE WEATHER SERVICE.

THE Weather Bureau has decided to make an important extension of its service by establishing ten or more stations on the Caribbean