

poses in the immediate future are not very bright."

In a postscript to the Review the author gives the literature down to March, 1898, which includes no less than eight books on the subject published in Europe.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Matthews uniformly omits initials of authors' names, for Berzelius, Wöhler and Moissan this is well enough, but we notice the names of Brown, Clarke and Jones, who certainly need initials. However, the Review is a welcome addition to chemical bibliography.

H. C. B.

*Brown Men and Women, or the South Sea Islands in 1895 and 1896.* By EDWARD REEVES. London, Swan, Sonnenschein & Co. 1898. With sixty illustrations and a map. Pp 294.

The author of this account was born in New Zealand, and from early days was acquainted with the peoples of the Pacific island-world. In 1895-6 he made two voyages to several of its archipelagoes, the Friendly Islands, the Samoan, Fijian, Society and Cook groups, jotting down his observations and clicking his camera as occasion offered. His attention was especially attracted by the social condition and prospects of the native population. This he claims to depict with more accuracy and a better knowledge than most previous writers.

The result may be briefly stated. He considers that they would be far better off if European civilization, and especially the Christian religion, were not forced upon them. His particular antipathy is the missionary. That wandering worthy he regards as the evil genius of Polynesia, and he repeatedly urges that subscriptions to 'foreign missions' should be stopped once for all. There is little of interest in the ethnographic observations, although the author must have had good opportunities.

D. G. BRINTON.

*Memory and its Cultivation.* By F. W. EDRIDGE-GREEN. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1897. Pp. 307.

The author of this book says in his preface: "After discovering the facts which led me to write on the subject of memory, I found that

I could learn a subject in about a fifth of the time that it previously took me." As he could have done it so easily, it is a pity that he did not learn something about psychology and physiology before attempting to write on these subjects. It is scarcely necessary for the scientific reader to go further than the frontispiece to understand the character of the book. This is a queer looking section of the brain, showing the 'center of sensory memory' and the 'center of motor memory' in the basal ganglia connected with the 'seat of the faculties of the mind' in the cortex. Further on we are told that there are thirty-seven of these faculties. Parental love is a faculty, but not conjugality, because 'conjugality is not likely to influence a man who hates his wife.' The book contains the stock anecdotes and mnemonic devices that may be picked up from desultory reading, and the author would doubtless pass for a man of wide information and agreeable parts in ordinary society. But it is a mystery why such a book should be published, as the last volume of the 'International Scientific Series'—a series which has maintained such a high standard and includes so many important scientific works.

J. MCKEEN CATTELL.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA, JULY 5, 1898.

MR. BENJAMIN SMITH LYMAN referred to the belief that chlorophyl required light for its production and exhibited an onion which in the course of seven months, without special nourishment, had grown long, green shoots in a dark closet. A potato in the same closet had sent out sprouts, but they contained no chlorophyl.

PROFESSOR HENRY A. PILSBRY communicated the results of his recent study of the molluscan group Aplacophora, dwelling specially on the characters distinguishing it from the gastropods. The former were first believed to be worms, but the discovery of a radula in the gullet and of a nervous system like that of the Chitons places them among the mollusks. They have a straight alimentary canal, while in the Chitons it is twisted and coiled. Although