

than that of pleuro-pneumonia, as the latter does not pass through filters designed to exclude ordinary bacteria. And it is also highly probable that a further refinement of the microscope will bring to light not only the organism of foot and mouth disease, but probably many more infinitesimally small living forms.

SIMON FLEXNER.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE FOLK-SONG SOCIETY.

As a branch of the study of folk-lore, what may be called folk-songs, *Volkspoesie*, has long held a prominent place. Ten years ago Dr. Krejci wrote: "Die Volkspoesie ist der eigenste Ausdruck der Volksindividualität." The time was quite ripe, therefore, when this summer in London the first meeting was held of the 'Folk Song Society,' under the presidency of Lord Herschell. Its aim is to discover, collect and publish folk-songs, ballads and tunes. Meetings will be held from time to time and collections will be published.

The subscription is 10s. 6d. annually, and those who wish to become members should address the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Lee, 41 Rosary Gardens, London, S. W.

ARTICLES ON WAMPUM.

In the *American Antiquarian* for February there is an article by the Rev. W. M. Beauchamp on 'Wampum Used in Council and as Currency.' He collects a number of examples of both uses from early writers, but acknowledges that "very few shell beads of any kind are met with on the earlier sites of the Huron-Iroquois."

This fact accentuates a historic doubt I have expressed in the *Bulletin* of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania (May, 1898) that wampum belts were made by the pre-historic Indians. All known to me are later than the discovery and none have been found in ancient burials. Even

the form of bead seen on the belts does not occur in pre-Columbian interments (Holmes).

NATIVE FACE-PAINTING.

PAINTING the face is probably the oldest of the fine arts, at least the learned Dr. Hoernes says so in his last book. That it is not yet extinct we all know. How it is carried on among the Indians of British Columbia is the subject of a handsome monograph written by Dr. Franz Boas and published by the American Museum of Natural History, June, 1898. He explains the complex designs adopted and the symbolism they convey, and adds nearly a hundred illustrations drawn from life. The general artistic principle of the native artist is to force the form into the decorative field in such a way as to bring into view its important parts, at no matter what sacrifice of perspective and natural relations. Conventionalism is carried to the extreme, and it often exercises the ingenuity of the observer to make out what subject is represented.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THERE were about 200 members in attendance at the Fourth International Congress of Physiologists, which met at Cambridge from the 23d to 26th of August. A number of important papers were contributed, of which we may be able to give some account in a future issue. The Fifth Congress will be held by invitation of Professor Mosso at the University of Turin in the latter part of September, 1901.

AT the closing meeting of the International Congress of Zoology a committee was appointed, consisting of Professor Schulze, Professor Pelseneer, Mr. A. H. Evans and Professor Mark, to report on the practicability of uniformity in abbreviations and other questions of terminology.

AN international congress on maritime fisheries was opened at Dieppe on September 2d.