

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.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

#### 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.

There were 300 members present, Great Britain, France, the United States, Russia, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Japan and Venezuela being represented.

DR. HUBERT LUDWIG, professor of zoology at Bonn, and Dr. G. Haberlandt, professor of botany in the University of Graz, have been elected corresponding members of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR VOLKENS has been appointed one of the custodians of the Botanical Gardens at Berlin.

PROFESSOR KOCH, who, as we have already reported, is now in Italy studying malaria, has been given a dinner by men of science at Rome, presided over by Professor Baccelli.

DR. D. MORRIS, lately Assistant Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, takes up, from the 1st inst., the position of Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, to which he was appointed some time ago. He will preside over the new botanical department which has been constituted as a charge on the Imperial fund in accordance with the recommendation of the West Indian Royal Commission and the recent vote of the House of Commons. He left for Barbados on the 21st inst.

SIR WILLIAM MARTIN CONWAY has made the ascent of Mount Illimani, one of the loftiest peaks of the Bolivian Andes, about twenty-five miles east of La Paz. The mountain is 22,506 feet high, and the ascent occupied five days.

MR. C. F. BAKER, Assistant Zoologist in the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, has been given leave of absence for eighteen months, beginning January 1, 1899, to visit South America on a collecting expedition.

DR. ROBERT ZIMMERMANN, formerly professor of philosophy at Vienna, died on September 1st at Salzburg, in his 74th year. He had made important contributions to æsthetics and other departments of philosophy, being regarded as one of the leaders of the Herbartian school.

DR. DIETRICH NASSE, associate professor of surgery at Berlin, was killed by an Alpine accident in the Upper Engadine at about the 1st of September. Only two weeks ago we were compelled to record the death of Professor Hop-

kinson by a similar accident. Remembering the deaths of Francis Balfour, of Milnes Marshall and of other scientific men we have a heavy account against the Alps.

AT the recent Syracuse meeting of the American Microscopical Society officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. William C. Krauss, of Buffalo; First Vice-President, Professor A. M. Bleile, of Columbus, O.; Second Vice-President, Dr. G. C. Huber, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Secretary, Professor Henry D. Ward, of Lincoln, Neb.; Treasurer, Magnus Pflaum, of Pittsburg; Executive Committee, Professor S. H. Gage, of Ithaca; Dr. A. Clifford Mercer, of Syracuse, and Dr. V. A. Moore, of Ithaca.

DR. W. H. WILEY, Secretary of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, has sent out a notice stating that, in harmony with the vote of the Executive Committee, the date of the fifteenth annual meeting of the Association has been fixed for November 11th. The sessions will be held in the lecture hall of the Columbian University, Washington, beginning at 10 a. m., Friday, November 11th, and continuing Saturday and Monday, or until the business of the Association is completed. These dates immediately precede the meetings of the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, which will convene in Washington, November 15th. The order of business agreed upon by the Executive Committee is as follows: Report on nitrogen; on potash; on phosphoric acid; on soils and ash; on foods and feed stuffs; on food adulteration; on dairy products; on sugars; on tannin; reports of special committees.

THE geographical societies of twenty-five towns of France and French Africa are sending delegates to the nineteenth session of the National Congress of French Geographical Societies, which meets at Marseilles from the 19th to the 25th of September. Prince d'Allenberg is President of the Congress.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the authorities of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., for a course of six illustrated popular lectures, open both to students and to citizens of Washington. The subjects are as follows:

October 12. Household Insects, L. O. Howard, Ph.D.

October 10. Marine Life, James E. Benedict, Ph.D.

October 26. Biology of the College Walks, Sylvester D. Judd, Ph.D.

November 2. Jack Rabbit. T. S. Palmer, M.D.

November 9. German-American Pork Question. Ch. Wardell Stiles, Ph.D.

November 16. Geographical Distribution of Animals and Plants, C. Hart Merriam, M.D.

THE seriousness of the recrudescence of the plague seems to be scarcely appreciated, if we may judge from the comparative silence of the daily papers. Since August 6th the number of cases in Bombay and throughout the Presidency has greatly increased, no fewer than 2,300 deaths having occurred in the Presidency during the last week regarding which news is at hand. Plague is also epidemic in the Madras Presidency and occasional cases occur in Calcutta.

MOUNT VESUVIUS is in eruption more actively than at any time since 1872. The central crater and some seven new outlets are throwing out lava and ashes. Imposing streams are flowing down the mountain sides, burning the chestnut woods at the base of Monte Somma, nearly reaching the Observatory, and destroying part of the railroad. Professor Tasconi, the Director of the Observatory, does not expect, however, that any serious damage will be done.

THE daily papers have published full details of the destructive hurricane which on the night of September 11th swept over the Windward Islands and proved especially destructive at St. Vincent and Barbados. The Weather Bureau furnishes the following statement: "The hurricane which created such destruction in the West Indies on Sunday night was detected at its inception on Saturday by the new West Indian hurricane service of the Weather Bureau of the Department of Agriculture. At 8 a. m. on Saturday morning observations on the islands of Martinique and Trinidad gave slight indications of a disturbance southeast of the Windward Islands. At 12:40 p. m. a special observation at Barbados indicated a fall of nearly  $\frac{1}{10}$  in the barometer during the preceding two hours. This movement of the barom-

eter at Barbados, taken in connection with the whole atmospheric survey made four hours previously, satisfied the forecast officer that the hurricane would soon develop over the Windward Islands, although to the non-expert there were no indications of a coming storm. Hurricane warnings were immediately despatched to all ports in the islands of Barbados, Martinique, St. Kitts and St. Thomas, and they were advised to prepare for a destructive storm. Cable communication was perfect and the warnings were promptly received. They were informed that the hurricane would move from a point south of Barbados, and that it would travel slowly northwesterly, with wind increasing to a hurricane velocity. Advisory messages were sent to Colon, Curaçoa, San Domingo, Trinidad and Santiago. A message was also sent to Admiral Watson's fleet, lying in the harbor of Caimanera, Cuba. How completely these warnings were verified by the coming of the storm twenty-four hours later is shown by the press despatches of this morning. While the destruction of life and property has been great, there is no question but that hundreds, if not thousands, of lives and millions of property were protected by the complete warnings given by the United States. These warnings were of profit to the commerce of all nations. Without considering the saving in human life, they have, from a commercial standpoint, fully justified the President in asking for the necessary appropriation, and in personally conducting the inauguration of a complete and efficient meteorological service."

THE *Electric World* quotes from the London *Electrician* an application of wireless telegraphy at a recent regatta, when Signor Marconi demonstrated the adaptability of his system to the transmission of press intelligence from a steam launch in motion. The yachting expert on deck dictated his account of the races while these were in progress, and a stream of dictated 'copy' descended below deck to Signor Marconi, who sat in a cabin working his transmitter, whence the ether waves carried the news with a minimum loss of time to a fixed receiving station on shore. Arrived at this point, the news was forwarded to the press offices by telephone. It is stated that one edition

of the local *Evening Mail* contained two whole columns of news dispatched entirely by wireless telegraphy. The notable event is undoubtedly the germ of an important development of wireless telegraphy in the near future.

THE Duke of Abruzzi is about to issue a book describing his recent ascent of Mount St. Elias. The author's and illustrators' profit upon it are to be devoted to a fund for assisting needy Italian guides.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It was announced last spring that \$500,000 had been given to the Medical College formed by the professors resigning from the Medical School of New York University and annexed to Cornell University. The gift was at the time made anonymously, but was supposed to be from Colonel Oliver H. Payne, one of those who resigned from the Council of the University after the difficulties. It is now definitely announced that Colonel Payne is the donor and that the gift to the Cornell University Medical College amounts to \$1,500,000. Plans for a building to cost \$500,000 are being made by McKim, Mead & White, the architects, and work on the structure is to be begun within thirty days. The plot of land which has been purchased is the entire block on the west side of First Avenue, between Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Streets. It is expected that the new building will be ready for occupancy by October, 1899.

THE late Rowland Hazard, of Peacedale, R. I., has bequeathed \$100,000 to Brown University. This sum is not to be paid for three years, and if the estate should depreciate in value the executors are empowered to reduce the amount to not less than \$50,000.

MR. GEORGE A. GARDNER has given \$20,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to be added to the general endowment fund.

DR. D. K. PEARSONS, of Chicago, has offered \$50,000 to Fairmount College, Wichita, Kans., on condition that \$150,000 can be raised.

MR. H. J. PATTERSON has been elected Director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, *vice* R. H. Miller, resigned. The State

Legislature has appropriated \$14,000 for the erection of a Science Hall, to be used jointly by the College and Station. It has also appropriated \$10,000 for inaugurating State work in entomology and vegetable pathology, and has provided for an annual appropriation hereafter of \$8,000 for its maintenance. C. O. Townsend has been elected Botanist and Pathologist in the College and Station and State Pathologist.

PRESIDENT KELLOGG, of the University of California, has resigned.

MR. J. M. POOR has been appointed instructor in astronomy in Dartmouth College, but we understand that Professor E. B. Frost, now of the Yerkes Observatory, will have supervision of the department and will spend part of the year at Hanover. Dr. G. H. Gerold, of the Dartmouth Zoological Department, has been given a year's leave of absence to be spent abroad, and Dr. H. S. Jennings, last year instructor in the University of Montana, will temporarily take Dr. Gerold's place. Other appointments at Dartmouth are: Dr. C. H. Richardson, to be assistant in chemistry and instructor in geology, and Mr. J. B. Proctor, to be assistant in mathematics.

DR. E. EMMET REID, of Johns Hopkins University, has been elected professor of chemistry and physics in the College of Charleston, S. C.

DR. O. BREFELD, professor of botany at the Münster Academy, has been called to the University of Breslau.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### AN UNUSUAL AURORA.

LAST evening (September 11th) I witnessed at this place what I suppose to be an aurora, and which, if such, showed features so unusual as to seem worthy of record. The air was remarkably clear for the climate of this region and no perceptible wind was blowing. At 7<sup>h</sup>50<sup>m</sup> E. S. T. I walked out to a good point of view, free from artificial lights, to look for the zodiacal light and the 'Gegenschein.' I soon noticed in the south what I supposed at first to be a white cloud, which, however, soon disappeared. Later the supposed cloud repeatedly