

success. The same has been the experience of other workers, notably Franke and Christensen. The latter, indeed, bases an argument as to the chemical character of manganese on the non-existence of manganese alums. In working with manganese, O'Neal, though using apparatus similar to that just described by Piccini, was not so fortunate as to obtain definitely a manganese alum, but now that it has been obtained by Piccini there would seem to be no doubt of the existence of trivalent manganese in salts of oxy-acids.

THE cause of color in the sapphire has been ascribed to various substances, but the weight of authority seems to favor the presence of chromium, probably in the form of a lower oxid. Deville and Debray, who carried out many experiments on the subject, are quite positive that chromium is present. The effort has been made by Andre Duboin to form chromium glasses of a blue tint, and his results are described in the *Chemical News*. Mixtures of silica, alumina, lime and chromate of potassium were heated to redness for several hours in a crucible brasqued with charcoal. With this mixture only a dull blue tint was obtained. When, however, the lime was wholly or partially replaced by baryta a fine blue color resulted. Jena glass and other boric-acid glasses were also colored blue by chromium. Calcium carbid, used instead of charcoal as a reducing agent, gave blues, but less fine. Of common glasses, soda glass gave only a green and Bohemian glass a bluish violet, but only in the vicinity of the layer of charcoal. It would, therefore, seem to be quite possible that the blue of sapphire is a lower oxid of chromium.

J. L. H.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE TRENTON ICE MAN.

THE meeting of the Anthropological Section in Boston was noteworthy for the

absence of palæolithic man. He did not attend in person or by representative. Probably he modestly felt that he had been too much in evidence at Toronto. But in the last number of *L'Anthropologie* (No. 3) the Marquis de Nadaillac, supported by some new material furnished by Professor Putnam, says a good word for his quondam existence at Trenton.

This new evidence is the exhumation by Mr. Volk of argillite chips below the ferruginous layer in the sands. This proves, reports the Marquis, that the sands above and below that layer are of the same age, and both glacial.

If I read the testimony printed in *SCIENCE* aright, it proved, indeed, that both were of the same character, and that both were *eolian* and distinctly long *post-glacial*.

ANCIENT MEXICAN MIGRATIONS.

IN a recently published quarto of ninety-two pages the Count de Charencey, well known for his many valuable contributions to American linguistics, presents a careful study of the statements in Sahagun's History concerning the traditional migrations of the Aztecs and Toltecs. He compares the old monk's account, which he no doubt justly assumes was the popular tradition of the time, with those of other writers, such as Veitia, Tezozomoc, Ixtlilxochitl, and also with the renderings of the Codices.

The result is a critical and valuable contribution to the subject. He does not credit the interpretation of those who trace the migrations across continents, but rather holds that Sinaloa or Jalisco limited the horizon of the tale-tellers; though somewhat inconsistently, he thinks that some of the narratives had an Asiatic origin (p. 34). (*L'Histoire Sahagun et les Migrations Mexicaines*. Alençon. A. Herpin, 1898.)

THE COLOR OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN.

IN the *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, 1898, Heft 2, Dr. Karl E. Ranke has an article on the

color of the South American Indians. His observations lead him to the following conclusions: 1. The darker coloration of portions of the body is due to exposure to sun and air, resembling in this the white race. 2. Judging from the color of the protected portions of the skin, the South American Indian approximates more closely to the yellow race than to the white or to a red race.

In the discussion of the paper when read in the Berlin Anthropological Society, Dr. Staudinger observed that variations of color under exposure is largely individual in all races, some negroes burning darker, some Europeans not 'tanning' at all; a fact well-known among ourselves.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE grants made for scientific purposes at the recent Bristol meeting of the British Association amount to £1,495.

AT the recent Congress of Physiologists a committee was appointed, at the suggestion of M. Marey, to consider methods of standardizing and making comparable physiological instruments. The committee consists of Professors Bowditch, Foster, von Frey, Hürthle, Kronecker, Marey, Mislawsky, Mosso and Weiss. The members of the committee are expected to secure information in their respective countries, and will meet in M. Marey's laboratory at Paris in September, 1900.

THE Library and Natural History Museum of New Westminster, B. C., was totally destroyed by the fire which consumed that city on September 11th.

A FULL-SIZED *replica* of the well-known portrait of Huxley painted by the Hon. John Collier in 1883 has been presented by Mr. Collier to the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery.

HERBERT LYON JONES, associate professor of botany at Oberlin College, died at Granville, O., on August 27th, at the age of 32 years. He had held this position but a single year, coming

from Cambridge, where he had been an instructor in Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges for a number of years.

THERE will be a general conference of the International Geodetic Association at Stuttgart, beginning October 3d. Besides the usual reports from the different countries on progress made toward the measurement of the Earth, a number of important questions will come up for discussion. It is expected that the program for a systematic study of the variations of latitude, involving the occupation of stations for a term of years, will be definitely arranged. Two of the points will be in the United States, one in Japan and one in Italy. The latest acquisition to the Association is England, which will be represented this year for the first time. Mr. Preston, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, goes as the delegate from the United States.

THE Italian Congress of Public Health will meet in Turin from September 29th to October 1st under the presidency of Professor Pagliani.

THE Fifth International Congress of Hydrology, Climatology and Geology will be held at Lüttich from September 25th to October 3d, 1898.

THERE were only 322 members in attendance at the Nantes meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, although the membership of the Association numbers some 4,000. Complaints are also made that the leading French men of science do not attend the meetings. There was, with the exception of the President and Vice-President, only one member of the French Academy of Sciences present at the meeting, and he did not take part in the proceedings.

It is stated in *Nature* that 226 members were in attendance at the recent International Congress of Physiology. The different nationalities represented were as follows: Austria-Hungary and Germany, 33 members; Belgium, 9; Denmark and Sweden, 3; Egypt, 2; France, 29; Holland, 3; India, 2; Italy, 9; Japan, 4; Roumania, 2; Russia, 7; Switzerland, 9; United States, 16; Great Britain and Canada, 98.

THE Scientific Commission, appointed jointly by the Colonial Office and the Royal Society to