on the anthropology of that duchy ('Beiträge zur Anthropologie Braunschweigs,' pp. 163, 1898, Braunschweig, Vieweg). It contains nine essays by local writers, beginning with the remains of palæolithic man in the 'diluvial' strata by Dr. W. Blasius. The relics seem to be adequate to proving his presence at that time. The jade axes found in the region are described by Professor Kloos; the bronzes by Instructor Voges; the medieval vessels by Dr. Hänselmann; ancient skulls by Dr. Berkhan; local peasant costumes by Dr. Richard Andree; wood carving by Mr. Vasel; megalethic monuments by Inspector Grabowsky; and some curious folk-lore by Pastor Schattenberg. The illustrations are abundant and good.

This is an excellent idea, and ought to be followed in other localities on such occasions.

THE QUERANDIES.

AN extended monograph on Argentine ethnography has recently appeared from the pen of Felix F. Outes ('Los Querandies;' Buenos Aires, 1897, pp. 202; illustrated). It is a study of the culture and affiliations of the tribe which, at the discovery, occupied the site and vicinity of the modern city of Buenos Aires. They were known to early writers as the Querandis, a Guarani term of no ethnic significance. Some authorities have claimed them as of the Guarani stock, others as of Pampean (Aucanian) origin. Mr. Outes, following Lafone Quevedo, holds them to have been of Guaycuru affinity. Only a few proper names remain, and their relics, which he studies at length, are not decisive. The evidence, however, leans in his favor. The same can not be said when he includes their neighbors to the north, the Charuas, in this family also. There is negative evidence which would place those either as a separate stock or among the Brazilian families.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AT the recent meeting of the British Association Professor W. Ramsay and Dr. Morris Travers announced the discovery of a new elementary constituent of air, which they named xenon, the stranger. It has been separated from both air and argon by the process of liquefaction and subsequent distillation. It has a well-marked spectrum, similar in general character to that of argon, and, like it, greatly altered in appearance by the interposition of a jar and spark-gap; but the positions of the lines of the spectrum differ totally from those of argon lines.

THROUGH the generosity of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the New York Botanical Garden is about to undertake a botanical exploration of the island of Porto Rico. The expedition, which is now being organized, will leave for the new colony within a few weeks, and will carry on collecting of museum and herbarium specimens and living plants for at least six months. Inasmuch as very little is yet known concerning the natural flora of the island, it is confidently expected that much of value and interest will be secured, and the collections will furnish the basis of a report on the botany and vegetable productions of our newly-acquired territory.

DURING the past summer much progress has been made in the New York Botanical Garden, in Bronx Park. The construction of the Museum building has proceeded rapidly, three-fourths of its steel frame being in place, the walls being completed as far as the second story. The warm and wet summer has been favorable to the plants. Much progress has been made in planting the border, which will be completed during the autumn. It will be about two miles in length and will contain some three hundred and fifty varieties of trees and shrubs.

A STATUE of Van Beneden, the eminent zoologist, has recently been unveiled at Malines.

DR. ARTHUR BORNTRÄGER has been appointed Director of the Agricultural Station at Palermo.

MR. W. H. HOLMES, of the United States National Museum, has gone to California to visit the Caliveras region.

Dr. Eugenio Bettoni, Director of the Fisheries Station at Brescia, died on August 5th at the age of fifty-three years.

The sessions of the New York Academy of Sciences will this year be held in the rooms of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 12 West Thirty-first Street. It should be remembered by those interested that the Academy meets on Monday evenings at eight o'clock, the first Monday in the month being given to the Section of Astronomy and Physics, the second Monday to the Section of Biology, the third Monday to the Section of Geology and Mineralogy, and the fourth Monday to the Section of Anthropology, Psychology and Philology. The annual meeting and presidential address will be on February 27th.

The other societies forming the Scientific Alliance of New York, which is so greatly in need of a building of its own, will hold their meetings at the following places: The Torrey Botanical Club, at the College of Pharmacy, 115 West 68th Street; The New York Microscopical Society, at the Motte Memorial Library, 64 Madison Avenue; The New York Section of the American Chemical Society, at the College of the City of New York; The New York Mineralogical Club, at the rooms of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; The American Mathematical Society, at Columbia University; The Linnæan Society of New York and the New York Entomological Society, at the American Museum of Natural History.

A new building has been erected for the Maryland Geological Survey in the rear of the one occupied at present by the Survey and the Weather Bureau, on Howard Street, Baltimore. It is of brick, two stories high, 20 feet wide by 50 feet long. It will be used for experiments and for depositing large pieces of machinery.

The government of New Zealand offers a prize of $10,000 for improvements in the process of treating the native fibre (*Phormium tenax*), known as New Zealand flax. The successful competitor will not be required to surrender title to his invention, or to permit a free use of it in the country which offers the reward.

Consul-General Lincoln, writing from Antwerp, notes that 78,220 pounds of African ivory and 55 pounds of hippopotamus tusks were offered at the quarterly sale of August 2d, the stock on hand being about 174,628 pounds. One can but wonder how long the elephant will continue to exist.

The American Public Health Association held its Twenty-sixth annual meeting at the Parliament Building, Ottawa, Canada, on September 28th, 29th and 30th, under the presidency of Dr. C. A. Lindsay, of New Haven, Conn. The Executive Committee selected the following subjects for consideration: Pollution of Water Supplies; Disposal of Garbage and Refuse; Animal Diseases and Animal Food; Demography and Statistics in their Sanitary Relation; Car Sanitation; Steamship and Steamboat Sanitation; The Etiology of Yellow Fever; The Relation of Forestry to Public Health; The Cause and Prevention of Infectious Diseases; Public Health Legislation; The Cause and Prevention of Infant Mortality; Transportation of Diseased Tissues by Mail; The Period during which each Contagious Disease is Transmissible and the Length of Time for which each Patient is Dangerous to the Community; Sanitation, with special reference to Drainage, Plumbing and Ventilation of Public and Private Buildings; International Arrangement for Protection against the Transmission of Infectious Diseases; Disinfectants; To Examine into the Existing Sanitary Municipal Organizations of the Countries belonging to the Association, with a view to Report upon those most Successful in Practical Results; The Duties and Responsibilities of the Healthy Man for his own and others' Health.

A conference of representatives of the leading underwriting organizations was held in New York for the purpose of adopting a national code of rules governing the use of acetylene gas. It was generally agreed that the use of liquefied gas under pressure should be prohibited. There was a difference of opinion as to whether apparatus for the generation of acetylene should be allowed in insured buildings or whether separate buildings should be required.

A remarkable discovery, as we learn from *Literature*, has recently been made in Dumbar-

tonshire, on the shores of the River Clyde, viz., an undoubted crannog, or dwelling on piles. It is about a mile east of Dumbarton Castle, is below high-water mark, and about 50 yards from the river at low tide. The circumference of the crannog is 184 feet. The outer circle is composed of piles of oak, sharpened by stone axes at the lower end, and below the mud still quite fresh. The transverse beams and pavements are of wood—willow, elder and oak, the smaller branches of fir, birch and hazel, with bracken, moss and chips. The refuse-mound extends about twelve feet outside, and in this have been found the bones of stags, cows, sheep, etc., together with evidences of fire, also numerous firestones and a hone or whetstone. Near the causeway a canoe, 37 feet long and 48-inch beam, was found, hollowed out of a single oak tree. The credit of the discovery is due to Mr. W. A. Donnelly, a keen local antiquary. It is a unique discovery (1) because it is the first example of a crannog situated on tidal waters, and (2) because only flint and bone implements have yet been discovered, and this dates it back into the Neolithic Age. All crannogs yet discovered have contained implements of bronze and other metals characteristic of the Bronze Age, so that this latest find seems at present to be the oldest crannog known.

PROFESSOR ROBERT H. THURSTON, of Cornell University, announces that Mr. P. T. Dodge, of New York, has presented to the museum of the Sibley College of Engineering what is probably, for its size, the costliest piece of machinery ever constructed. This is the Paige typesetting machine, the one in which Mark Twain sunk a lot of money. It consists of 19,000 pieces, controlled by a keyboard, and handles ordinary type, setting, justifying and distributing the matter, and leading it also, when required. It is believed to be one of the most beautifully ingenious pieces of mechanism as well as the costliest. The trouble with it commercially is that it is too ingenious, and, although perfect in the operation, cannot be built for sale. Of course, most of the two millions of dollars this, the original machine, is estimated to have cost, was used in the incessant changing and remaking in which years were spent. The machine occupies a floor space of $11\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and its highest point is $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the floor. The weight is a little less than 5,500 pounds, and it runs without a perceptible vibration.

IN a recent number of the *Berliner klinische Wochenschrift*, as quoted in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor Straussman gives an account of a visit to the Medico-Legal Institute of Bucharest. He says that the medical profession is treated with much greater respect there, and is given a higher and more independent position in the State than in any of our European cities. Professor Minovici, who is the Director of the Institute, is also Coroner and Director of the Morgue, where the bodies lie until identified; if not identified they are buried by order of the Director. The Institute itself is fitted up in the most elaborate manner; every detail has been carefully considered. A large lecture theatre is now being erected near the Institute for teaching purposes. The *post-mortem* room is large and well ventilated, and on the walls are hung diagrams of various parts of the body, which can be referred to when necessary. Bertillon's system of anthropometrical measurement is carried out. A bacteriological and chemical laboratory also forms part of the scheme.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London *Times* writes: A short time ago the London County Council addressed a communication to each of the vestries and district boards throughout the metropolis, asking them whether they would be in favor of the Council applying for Parliamentary powers to establish a bacteriological laboratory. The idea is to appoint an expert or experts in connection with the projected institution, or otherwise to make arrangements whereby medical officers of health and medical practitioners in London could obtain, at the expense of the county, the examination by a competent bactoriologist of material from suspected cases of infectious disease, with a view to aiding in the diagnosis. Owing to the summer vacation of the various local authorities the proposition has not yet been fully considered by the majority, but so far as those are concerned who have paid attention to the question the scheme has met with unanimous approval. Among those authorities who have

already pronounced in favor of the project may be mentioned the vestries of Shoreditch and St. Pancras. In the case of Shoreditch the health committee of the vestry point to the laboratory established by the city of New York some five years ago in connection with a scheme for general bacteriological examination of cases of diphtheria, and state that it has been received by the medical profession of that city with almost unanimous approval. The Shoreditch committee mention further that several towns in the provinces and some of the London sanitary authorities appear to have also made arrangements whereby medical practitioners can send pathological material to experts for bacteriological examination. Believing that it would be desirable in order to secure uniformity and economy that such provision should be made, the Shoreditch Vestry has just informed the County Council of its advocacy of such a laboratory. In St. Pancras the vestry has already made some progress in the direction indicated, since from a report just submitted to the health committee by Mr. John F. J. Sykes, medical officer of health, it appears the vestry early last year sanctioned the examination of pathological material in doubtful cases of diphtheria and typhoid fever, examinations being made when necessary. They are considered essential to the proper notification and prevention of the spread of the disease to which they apply. Two questions have to be considered: (1) whether it is more desirable to carry on the work locally or to centralize it; and (2) if centralized, which is the best method or public body for centralization. In this connection the health committee of the St. Pancras Vestry states that systems have been organized by the several sanitary authorities in conjunction either with the British Institute of Preventive Medicine, the Clinical Research Association or the bacteriologists of the large London hospitals. At the same time the small hospital laboratory at each of the large infectious diseases hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylum Board is utilized for the purpose of examinations of this nature. Taking all the points into consideration, the St. Pancras Vestry have come to the conclusion that a central bacteriological laboratory should be established, and express the opinion that such an institution could be provided by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, under the latter's Parliamentary powers, in the new premises now being built on the Victoria embankment. A letter to this effect has this week been addressed to the County Council. As the London County Council does not meet until next month, and as the Vestries and District Boards are only now beginning to resume their proceedings, some little time will elapse before all the replies are in the possession of the Council. As these will not require much consideration it is possible that the Public Health Committee may be in a position to submit to the Council a recommendation on the subject early in November next.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

A VACANCY has occurred in the office of 'Assistant in Physiology' in the Harvard Medical School. The duties are to superintend the practical laboratory work of medical students, and to engage in original research. The salary is $400. Applications with statement of qualifications should be made at once to Dr. H. P. Bowditch, 688 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

THE University of Cincinnati has been presented with $60,000 by Mr. Briggs S. Cunningham, a resident of Cincinnati and a member of the Board of Directors of the University. This money will be devoted to the erection of a building to be occupied by the departments of biology and of physics. Plans are being matured and it is hoped that the construction of the building, to be known as Cunningham Hall, will be begun within a month.

ACCORDING to the 'Cambridge University Calendar' for the year 1898-99, the total number of members of the University was last year 13,260, of whom 3,019 were undergraduates. This is an increase of 90 undergraduates over the preceding year. The most important changes in the scientific departments of the University have been the election of Mr. A. A. Kanthack to succeed the late Professor Roy in the chair of pathology; the appointment of Mr. George Griffiths as reader in surgery; the conversion of the University's lectureship of geology into a readership, and the establishment of a lectureship in chemical physiology not yet