

In his inaugural dissertation at Freiberg, Th. Lehmann finds that the distillation of fish remains under pressure gives rise to an oil which in its constituents shows a very close resemblance to petroleum, and hence the conclusion is drawn that petroleum deposits have arisen from the remains of sea animals. There is, however, in this work little advance on that of Engler. The well recognized fact that petroleum could have been formed in this way by no means proves that all petroleum has this origin, or that some or much has not been formed according to the theory of Mendeleef from the action of water upon metallic carbids in the deeper layers of the earth's crust.

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#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### RUSSIAN ETHNOGRAPHY.

AN unusually interesting article is that on the ethnography of the Slavic stock, by Professor W. Z. Ripley, in the *Popular Science Monthly* for October last. He finds a remarkably uniform type of head form among the Russians due, he believes, to the uniformity of their environment. Two contrasted psychical types, however, coexist throughout the Slavic nations—the one tall, blonde, long-skulled; the other of medium stature, swarthy, broad-skulled. Which represents the primitive Slavic type? Desperate contests, in which much ink has been shed, have been fought over this point by the learned of Europe. Professor Ripley does not shout in a clarion voice with either combatant, but 'rather inclines to believe' that more can be said in favor of the latter. 'The Slaves penetrated Russia from the southwest,' driving before them a primitive people ethnically allied to the Finns, hence of north Asiatic origin.

##### ARGENTINE ETHNOGRAPHY.

UNDER the title *Etnografia Argentina*, Sr. Felix F. Outes has published a supplement

to his work on the Querandi Indians, mentioned in these notes (October 7, 1898). He repeats and defends his opinion that they belonged to the Guaycuru stock of the Chaco. His arguments do not seem to me convincing. The Querandi proper names appear to belong to an Aucanian dialect, and when they were driven from the coast they fled to the Ranqueles, who are a known branch of the Aucanian family.

In an article in the *Bollettino della Società Geografica Italiana*, 1897, Sr. Guido Boggiani copies and describes the singular rock inscriptions at the 'Gorgo das Pedras,' not far from Corumba, State of Matto Grosso. They are alleged to be extremely ancient, the modern Indians denying knowledge of their origin or meaning. They present familiar types of aboriginal petroglyphs, human foot-prints, bird foot-prints and the signs for man, etc.

##### THE ETHNOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA.

THE second report of the Committee on the Ethnological Survey of Canada, presented to the British Association last August, has been issued. It contains a brief official report of progress and an Appendix including 'Haida Stories and Beliefs,' by Professor C. Hill-Tout, and 'Customs and Habits of Earliest Settlers of Canada,' by Mr. B. Sulte. The Association now makes an appropriation for this work and it is progressing more rapidly.

Both the papers in the Appendix are valuable original contributions, though one cannot but regret to see that Professor Hill-Tout is engaged in discovering the affinities between the Salish dialects of British Columbia and the Polynesian languages. That is a step twenty years backward in linguistic science. Mr. Sulte's picture of the early settlers and their mode of life is vivid and striking.

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