

upon the universal human material of speculation and fancy its special stamp and impress. Such a manifestation is by no means necessarily conditioned by blood-kinship."

It is to be regretted that such a divergence of opinion as to the proper signification of this word exists in two branches of the same science. Does it not show the necessity of an improved terminology?

THE EXTINCTION OF THE POLYNESIAN.

A HUNDRED years ago the Hawaiian Islands were said to have had 400,000 native population; now 30,000 is a high estimate. The same fearful diminution has been going on through Polynesia. Dr. Tautain has recently studied its causes in the Marquesas Islands *L'Anthropologie*, 1898, No. 4). The principal are the following: (1) Leprosy, which leads to impotence and sterility; (2) tuberculosis, which is eminently contagious and destructive; (3) syphilis, which is less marked than might be supposed; (4) licentiousness, the consequences of which are very visible in developing metritis and sterility or abortion. This last is the most injurious of all the causes, and Dr. Tautain places it as the principal factor in leading to diminished natality. The total absence of sexual morality operates in many directions to undermine the viability of the race.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory, held at Columbia University, the report of the Treasurer showed that the funds of the institution were in a satisfactory condition. Professor S. F. Clarke, of Williams College, very generously contributed \$400 to defray the expenses of certain necessary alterations and repairs in and about the laboratory buildings, and a rising vote of thanks was given, as an expression of the gratitude of the Board for the very acceptable gift.

The following minute relative to the death of Professor Peck, the Assistant Director, was unanimously adopted:

"The Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory have heard with profound sorrow of the death of their colleague, Professor James I. Peck, of Williams College. They wish to record their appreciation of the invaluable service which he rendered to the Marine Biological Laboratory, and especially to express their high regard for the generous and unfailing way in which as Assistant Director he devoted himself to the maintenance and development of the Laboratory. They feel the deepest sympathy with Williams College and with his family in the loss which both have sustained."

By special vote the Board expressed itself as favorable to the establishment of more intimate relations between the Laboratory and the *Zoological Bulletin*. Circulars explaining these relations, and announcements for the forthcoming season, will be issued to members of the Corporation, and to others interested, at an early date.

The election of an Assistant Director was referred to a committee with power, and since the meeting Dr. Ulric Dahlgren, of Princeton University, for three years one of the instructors at Woods Holl in the department of invertebrate zoology, has been appointed to the position.

H. C. BUMPUS,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT J. G. SCHURMAN and Professor Dean C. Worcester arrived at Vancouver on January 30th, and immediately embarked on the steamship 'Empress of Japan' on their way to the Philippines.

PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL, of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed to be director of the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden. He will enter upon the duties of the new position next July, by which time it is believed the new museum building will be ready for occupancy. The laboratory system occupies the greater portion of the upper floor, connecting with the library rooms and the herbarium.

PROFESSOR G. H. DARWIN has been elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society, London.

PROFESSOR MENDELEJEV, of St. Petersburg, has been elected a correspondent in the Section