

*MEETINGS AT COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND NEW
HAVEN, CONN., OF SECTION H, AN-
THROPOLOGY, OF THE AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION FOR THE AD-
VANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

THE meeting at Columbus began with the installation of the chairman, Professor Thomas Wilson and the election of a secretary in place of Dr. G. Dorsey, resigned.

The report of the committee for the 'Study of the White Race in America' was presented by Professor Cattell; it was proposed to establish a station for making certain physical and mental measurements at the next meeting of the Association.

In a paper on 'New Anthropometric Methods' Professor Cattell showed some photographs taken with a centimeter netting close to the face; the method was said to be of special value in making permanent records of an indefinitely large number of measurements. Dr. Frank Russell, in a well-illustrated paper told of his measurements on the skeletons of the Labrador Eskimos and New England Indians. Professor W J McGee described the beginnings of mathematics.

The archæological side of anthropology was well represented. Professor G. Frederick Wright claimed that the separation between the Columbia and Trenton deposits was not so great as supposed by many; an account of observations supporting this claim was given in a paper on the 'Correlation of the Glacial Deltas in the Lower Part of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers.' Mr. Cresson's finding of a paleolithic implement in a deposit correlated to the Columbia deposit need not be received with incredulity, as "this would not imply an antiquity more than two or three thousand years greater than that which is implied in the genuineness of the Trenton deposit."

Dr. W. A. Phillips gave a richly illustrated paper on the 'Aboriginal Quarries

and Shops at Mill Creek, Union County, Illinois.' A paper was read from Dr. Robert Steiner on a 'Prehistoric Settlement, Big Kiokee Creek, Columbia County, Georgia,' with an account of numerous finds. Dr. Charles Slocum brought forward evidence showing the existence of prehistoric man in the Maumee River Basin.

Dr. Steiner also sent a paper on 'Allan Stevenson's Trance.' Professor McGee read a paper on the 'Cherokee River Cult,' by James Mooney. An account of 'Instruction in Anthropology in Europe and America,' was given by Dr. G. G. MacCurdy. Charles K. Wead gave an account of the 'Natural Diatomic Scale.'

The psychological side of anthropology was represented in the report and paper by Professor Cattell above referred to.

A paper, illustrated by lantern diagrams, was given on the results of 'Researches in Experimental Phonetics,' wherein the curves of the sound-waves in certain vowels and diphthongs had been carefully measured. 'The Inadequacy of the Present Tests for Color-blindness' pointed out the fact that the wool-test, in spite of its universal use in American railways, was not adequate to eliminate color-blind persons from posts where that defect is dangerous; a new color-sense tester was exhibited. In a paper on 'Observations on After-images and Cerebral Light,' several new observations were given as to the results of displacing the eyeballs in the effect of retinal (cerebral) after-images, Purkinje's figures and the image of the yellow spot. In observations on the 'Economy of Sleep' various methods of lengthening sleep were discussed. These four papers were by Dr. E. W. Scripture.

The Columbus meeting was a pleasant and successful one. Over 300 persons were registered for the general Association. The attendance in Section H ran as high as a

hundred. The plan was used of connecting all the sections by a telephone system, and of having in each room a blackboard with the titles of the papers being read in all the other sections; a person attending one section would remain until the announcement of the occurrence of some paper which he wished to hear in another section. The excursions to the gas fields, the coal mines of Hocking Valley, to Ft. Ancient, etc., were specially interesting features provided with a generosity truly Ohioan. The success of the meeting was largely due to the activity of the local committee and its chairman, Professor Thomas.

Professor Amos W. Butler, of Indianapolis, was elected to be Chairman, and Dr. Frank Russell, of Cambridge, Mass., to be Secretary of Section H, at the next general meeting of the Association. This meeting will occur during the third week in June, 1900, in New York City. Dr. Russell kindly performed part of the duties of Secretary at the Christmas meeting.

The special winter meeting of this Section was held in New Haven, Conn., on December 27th to 29th.

At the opening of the meeting Professor Wilson spoke on the need of introducing the Bertillon system uniformly into the measurements of criminals, conscripts, etc., and avoiding the present confusion of two systems and no system. Professor J. McKeen Cattell spoke of the projected station for measuring the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the next meeting in New York. Dr. J. W. Seaver's account of the result of the measurements of the women in the Freshmen classes in the three colleges at Wellesley, Oberlin, and the University of Nebraska, created considerable comment.

Professor Joseph Jastrow's paper on the anthropology of the occult, suggested the fundamental factor of thought involved in the vagaries of mind of the astrologers, al-

chemists, mesmerists, faith-cures, and similar folk.

'The art of the Thompson Indians' was described and illustrated with blackboard sketches by Professor Franz Boas. The graphic art of this tribe differs widely from that of the natives along the coast: they employ simple motives, each of which has a symbolic meaning; in some cases decorating extensive surfaces by repetition of the elements of the design. The following paper by R. B. Dixon upon 'Some basketry designs of the Maidu Indians of California,' gave an account of an art perhaps somewhat more advanced but illustrating the same principles of conventionalism and repetition. A paper upon a kindred topic, 'Symbolism of the Arapaho Indians,' by Dr. A. L. Kroeber closed the morning session.

At the opening of the afternoon meeting, Prof. Franz Boas presented the results of the investigations of Captain G. Comer among 'The Eskimos of Hudson Bay.' The natives of Southampton Island are of special interest to the anthropologist, owing to the fact that they have escaped thus far the contamination that inevitably results from contact with white 'civilization.' They are literally a Stone Age people. The paper upon the 'Archæology of the Thompson River Region,' read by Dr. Harlan Smith, was illustrated by a number of lantern views, showing the talus slopes and other localities where graves were examined, as well as the disposition of their contents, together with various artifacts of the peoples inhabiting the region prior to the arrival of the whites. John R. Swanton, in a paper upon the 'Morphology of the Chinook verb,' stated that the Chinook language exhibited many characteristics peculiar to itself that differentiated it from other American languages. Ales Hrdlička presented the results of his 'Observations on the Ute Indians,' which included an account of their

arts and customs, and especially of their physical structure. He regards them as inferior in every way to the adjoining Navajos; considerable uniformity of physical type prevails throughout the various bands composing the tribe. Dr. George T. Stevens exhibited a number of pieces of apparatus for testing the vision, and spoke of 'The pose of the body as related to the type of the cranium and the directions of the planes of vision.' Dr. Stevens also exhibited a number of lantern views illustrating the abnormal poise of the head that results from the adoption of an incorrect plane of vision, which he believed to be in some measure due to the shape of the eye socket, represented in craniometry by the orbital index.

An exhibit of stereoscopic and triple-color slides was made by E. W. Scripture, who also took the occasion to give the first public demonstration of his method of producing anaesthesia by an alternating electric current of moderately high frequency and without drugs of any kind.

The morning session of Thursday opened with a paper by Vice-President Wilson, entitled 'Similarity of thought not necessarily evidence of similarity in culture,' in which he dwelt more particularly upon the evidence obtainable among the higher civilizations—the evidence from the more primitive cultures having been presented in his address at Columbus. Dr. Wilson's investigations lead him to the conclusion that striking similarity or identity of thoughts is extremely rare in literature. G. F. Wright exhibited a number of specimens from Ohio, one of which, a 'Flint core with supposed artificial chippings found in the undisturbed gravel of the Tuscarawas Valley, at Massillon, Ohio.' George H. Pepper read a paper entitled 'Mosaic objects from Pueblo Bonito' that described the ceremonial objects inlaid with jet and turquoise, which have been found

among the ruins of the Chaco cañon by the expedition organized by Messrs. B. T. B. and F. E. Hyde and under Mr. Pepper's direction.

Dr. D. A. Sargent presented the results of an extended investigation of physical correlations among Harvard students, particularly with reference to the 'Relation of height, weight, and strength to the cephalic index'. The dolichocephalic men were shown to be taller, heavier and stronger than the brachycephalic. In the discussion it was pointed out that this was in a great measure due to the fact that within the group the tendency is always toward dolichocephaly in the taller individuals and, furthermore, that the environment of the descendants of the earlier immigrants of a dolichocephalic stock was much more favorable than that of the other group. Frank Russell presented a preliminary paper upon 'Some cranial anomalies.' His investigations were made upon a series of over sixteen hundred crania of the American race, the percentages of occurrence of the various anomalies were tabulated, and the results presented a statistical form. George G. MacCurdy exhibited a number of 'Iron figurines from Styria' and described the character and distribution of this curious survival of primitive superstition.

The short afternoon session of the Section was devoted to the paper presented jointly by F. W. Putnam and G. F. Wright upon 'A human bone from the Trenton Gravels.' This important discovery must effectually silence many of the opponents to the theory of the antiquity of man in the Delaware Valley. The bone was found on the first of December, 1899; it is a section of a human femur, showing traces of having been artificially worked. It was found in the stratified and undisturbed gravels seven feet below the surface, at the margin of a canal that is being cut through the plateau,

at Trenton. Several lantern views of the bone and of the locality from which it came were shown. It was moved that a vote of thanks be tendered the gentlemen, the Duke of Loubat and Dr. F. E. Hyde, who have advanced the funds necessary for the maintenance of the explorations by Mr. Volk, at Trenton.

At the meeting with the Folk-Lore Society on Friday morning, Section H was called to order by Vice-President Wilson for a short session, during which the committee appointed at the Columbus meeting to consider the advisability of advocating the introduction of the science of anthropology into the curricula of the higher institutions of learning, made its report. The report is given below.

After the adjournment of the Folk-Lore Society, the Section again met to hear Dr. E. Solotaroff read a paper upon 'Comparative Psychology.'

The following report of Committee on Introduction of Anthropologic Teaching, W J McGee, Chairman, was presented:

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECTIONAL COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF SECTION H, A. A. S. :

Your Committee on the Introduction of Anthropologic Teaching having exchanged views, chiefly through correspondence, beg to submit a preliminary report, defining a policy and outlining a plan for further work which seem to them feasible.

1. Your Committee are strongly of opinion that anthropologic teaching should be introduced in educational institutions of higher grade as rapidly as practicable; and they are strongly of opinion also that the Anthropologic Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is the fittest organization of national character to undertake the introduction of such teaching.

2. Your Committee fully appreciate the difficulties in the way of introducing anthropology into established curricula, especially (a) the attendant cost to the institutions, (b) the lack of definite information concerning the aims and scope of the science. With the view of overcoming these difficulties, the Committee have been led to recommend a plan for acquainting educational institutions with the methods and purpose of anthropology at a minimum cost, with the expectation that the interest thereby developed may lead to adequate provision for the subject in later curricula. The adoption of the plan would involve personal sacrifice on the part of working anthropologists willing to contribute in time and thought, but would seem to give promise of general advancement in the science.

3. Your Committee recommend that anthropologists desirous of promoting anthropologic teaching in America unite in offering to deliver, before high grade universities and colleges in which anthropology is not now taught, lectures outlining the science, explaining its great interest and utility, and setting forth its adaptability for college teaching; such lectures to be, at the outset, gratuitous, save for suitable provision for traveling expenses.

4. Your Committee recommend that, for the purpose of carrying out this plan, they be continued and given power to act and add to their number.

Your Committee suggest that any unexpended balance of the appropriation by the Council of the A. A. A. S. for the incidental expenses of the New Haven meeting of the Section be allotted for the printing of a suitable circular to be issued to educational institutions of higher grade.

E. W. SCRIPTURE,
Secretary.