contrast to the broad deep valleys in which the loess was deposited—valleys 3000 feet deep and 2 to 7 miles wide.

FRED. B. WRIGHT.

TIENTSIN, NORTH CHINA, May 30, 1900.

POWER OF THE EYE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: We often hear people say that they can merely by a steady gaze affect a person at a distance who is not looking at them; and some say that they are able to make one sitting in front turn the head in this way. Mr. Bell in his 'Tangweera' (p. 198) mentions this feeling when he says: "Presently I felt as if someone was looking at me, and, raising my head, saw a large puma standing ten yards off." To the physiologist it may seem uncalled for to investigate a manifest absurdity, but it has at least a practical value to explode a common error by direct experiment. I asked a young man, who is very confident of his powers, to stand, unknown to re-agent A, behind a book case, and look through a carefully concealed peep hole. I gave him the best opportunity, placing A about four feet from the hole and directly facing him, and I engaged A in mechanical writing. To the young man's confessed disgust and irritation he was unable to disturb A. My few experiments were negative in results. However, it may be that telepathic influence is exerted under certain conditions, and experiments with twins and others constantly *en rapport*, especially when under emotional stress and at critical junctures, might be worth trying. If there be nervous telepathy, this is, perhaps, as simple and common a form as any. If disturbance arose subconsciously the test would be that the tracings from an instrument to show nervous conditions should show large fluctuations coincidently with the times when the agent regards himself as successful.

HIRAM M. STANLEY.

CURRENT NOTES ON PHYSIOGRAPHY.

GLACIÈRES OR FREEZING CAVERNS.

A HANDSOME volume under the above title by E. S. Balch has just appeared (Allen, Lane and Scott, Phila., 1900, 337 pages, many illustrations). Nearly a third of the book is given to a narrative of personal experiences in visiting 'ice caves' or freezing caverns in various parts of the world. Fifty pages follow on the causes of subterranean ice; the first suggested and simplest explanation, the cold of winter, being held sufficient against a variety of legendary and fanciful processes. The prevalent belief that freezing caves are colder in summer than in winter and that ice forms in the warm season is controverted by direct observation. The reason for this curious perversion of fact is probably to be found in the temperature contrasts between cavern and external air in summer and winter; the cavern air feeling colder than the open air in summer and warmer in winter. Thermometric records show, however, that cavern temperature is relatively constant all the year round. The whole story is that cold air enters from the outside in winter time and produces ice when there is water to freeze. This simple explanation is confirmed by the occurrence of glacières only in regions where the winter has temperatures below freezing. A compendious list of glacières occupies 100 pages; abstracts of many opinions concerning them, 40 more; and a good bibliography and index close the volume. The views of the ice stalagmites in the glacière de Chaux-les-Passavant in the French Jura are excellent, and the book as a whole is highly creditable to American geographical scholarship.

THE OLD MOUNTAINS OF MICHIGAN.

MONOGRAPH XXXVI, U. S. Geological Survey, by several authors, treating of the Crystal Falls iron bearing district of the upper peninsula of Michigan, contains an instructive account of physiographic features amid a great body of geologic and economic details. The items here abstracted are from chapters by Smyth and Clements. Although the district is partly underlaid by resistant and deformed pre-Cambrian rocks of diverse structures, and partly by weak and gently inclined upper Cambrian sandstones, the most general aspect of its surface is that of a somewhat rolling plain with a gentle and uniform descent for about thirty miles from an altitude of 1800–1900 feet in the northwest to 1200-1300 in the southeast. The areas of harder rocks form broad swells of moderate relief, but