

cult it is to find the thing they are seeking. Between those piled up and stowed in great collections and those hid away in private museums, much time is wasted. Now, the anthropologists of Germany long ago felt the necessity of publishing the catalogues of the specimens in their great museums; and already have appeared five of these in former numbers of the *Archiv*. The current number devotes 36 pages to the Senckenberg museums in Frankfurt-a.-M., with tables of measurements and descriptions; and 25 pages to the anthropological collection in the Grossherzoglichen naturalien-cabinets im alten schlosse, in Darmstadt, also with measurements and descriptions. Comparisons, of course, are always odious; but it cannot fail to strike our American anthropologists that the especial merit of the German system, that is, co-operation, is wanting with us. It may also be mentioned that none of the foreign anthropological societies seem to know any thing about the work in progress at the surgeon-general's office at Washington.

— There have been issued by the government, under the direction of Gen. W. B. Hazen, chief signal-officer, the meteorological and physical observations on the east coast of British America, by Oray Taft Sherman, as no. 11 of the 'professional papers.' Nos. 8 and 12 consist of papers on the 'Motions of fluids and solids' and 'Popular essays on the movements of the atmosphere,' by Prof. W. Ferrel; the first edited, with notes, by Mr. Frank Waldo. No. 9 contains charts and tables showing the geographical distribution of rainfall in the United States.

— The new British patent law will go into effect Jan. 1, 1884. The patent fee is reduced to about a hundred dollars for all fees, including agents' ordinary charges. Provisional protection is extended to nine months. Annual taxes are substituted for the stamp-duties now charged, although no change has been made in the total amount. The new provisions apply to applications now in the office. No change has been made in regard to examinations. The patent is issued to any applicant who chooses to pay the fees, and without formal examination. A system of comparison of the patent claim with the claim for which provisional protection has been granted, is, however, established, — a commendable innovation, and one which might well be supplemented by the system of complete examination practised in the United States. The duration of the patent is to be fourteen years in all cases, irrespective of the expiration of earlier foreign patents on the same device. The publication in Great Britain of the foreign specification of the invention does not, under the new law, invalidate the British patent. The new law will evidently greatly favor the inventor, and the change will be likely to prove to be very greatly to the advantage of that country as well.

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