

pleteness, which would require far more profound and exhaustive studies, and much more time, than any one has yet found opportunity to give to it; but for the observations of the Messrs. Krause and their predecessors in the same field it is nearly exhaustive, and by far the most complete and satisfactory account of these people anywhere to be found. In the interest of our own students of anthropology, it would seem that an English translation would be extremely useful.

The volume opens with a sketch of the journey made by the expedition, followed by an historical *résumé* of previous explorations. This is succeeded by an account of the characteristics of the region inhabited by the Tlinkit, a chapter on their history, nomenclature, clans, totemic and tribal relations, and the position of their chiefs. The fourth chapter treats of their villages, houses, festivals, seasonal migrations, the practice of labretifery, native art (well-illustrated), and slave-holding. Then comes an account of their domestic life and customs, shamanism, and dances. A chapter is devoted to the Haida and other adjacent tribes, and another to the history of Russian and other missions among them. Lastly, we have a review of the language from a grammatical stand-point, a vocabulary, a bibliography of the literature of the whole topic, and an index.

The work is carefully and thoroughly done, and will be extremely useful and interesting to students of American anthropology. Since the miners and the missions, the navy and the mercantile element, are introducing all the changes which come with the van of civilization, it would be well, if, with this volume for a starting-point, the rapidly vanishing features of the Tlinkit culture could be permanently and monographically recorded before, as in so many other cases, it is too late. Whatever be done in this direction, we shall owe to Dr. Krause and his brother a debt of gratitude for the record which they have secured and made available, and to the society which made their investigations possible.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

**A mythical Danish island.**—On Danish maps near the east coast of the island of Bornholm, in the Baltic, a little island may be found named Christiansö. This is an error, for there never has been any such island there. It seems that about twenty kilometres from Bornholm is a little group of three islets, call Christiansholm, Frederiksholm, and Gräsholm, where long since were some fortifications, now in ruins, called Christiansö. How this name has been transferred to a mythical islet on the coast of Bornholm is a mystery.

**A study of the Danube.**—T. de Wogan has recently made a canoe voyage on the Danube, and has made a study of its sources. It appears that the river has a total length of 2,840 kilometres, and a total fall of 678 metres. The spring in the garden of Prince Fürstenberg, which has long been considered the source of the river, and is so entitled on a monument at the spot, which has been adorned at great expense by the prince, is only one of several springs in the same region, either of which has an equal claim to be so considered. In the early part of its course, the river loses much water through subterranean passages reached by fissures in its bed. These have been described by Dr. A. Knop, whose experiments have been repeated with confirmatory results by de Wogan.

**The condition of Borneo.**—T. Burls has visited the ancient capital of Borneo, the town of Bruni. It is situated on a river with muddy banks, about twelve miles from the sea. The houses are poor and small: they are built on piles, and thatched with palm-leaves. The sultan, alleged to be more than a hundred years old, has recently married a girl of fifteen, who is his one hundred and sixtieth wife. His territory has been the seat of several recent insurrections, which he has been powerless to suppress; and it is only a question of whether the authorities of Sarawak or those of the North Borneo company shall take possession of the rebellious districts. More than twenty British subjects of Sarawak were recently killed by the rebels on the Trusan River not far from Bruni.

**South American investigations.**—André Bresson has recently published a statistical and geographical work on Bolivia. Manuel Uribe Angel has just issued a work on the general geography and history of the state of Antioquia, with maps and twelve plates of antiquities, carvings, pottery, and inscriptions of a date anterior to the Spanish conquest. It contains very curious and important ethnological and linguistic material, beside valuable geographical documents relating to the little-known mountainous region traversed by the Rio Cauca, and bounded by Bolivia and Tolima from the Magdalena to the Atrato.

**Travels in Laos.**—The explorations of Dr. Neis in Laos during 1883-84 are recently published in more detail than the original accounts gave. Apart from their additions to cartography, they contain interesting notes. On reaching the Nam-u River, which he was the first to explore, some singular caves were observed. One is in a peaked hill, and is reached by steps cut in the rock. The second, near by but at a greater height, is difficult of access, but well repays a visit. The door with which its entrance is furnished is hung between

two enormous stalactites. It opens into a passage about twenty-five feet long, after which the cave enlarges to a great hall seventy feet in diameter, and with a tolerably level floor. The roof could not be distinguished by the light of the explorers' six candles. Everywhere the stalagmitic deposits assumed the most curious forms, such as draperies and figures. Every corner was filled with figures of Buddha, some in wood, many in bronze, some very large ones built of brick covered with carefully gilded cement. An attack of fever, due to the chill of the cave atmosphere, was ascribed by the guides to the anger of a cave deity. A sacrifice to him, and a large dose of quinine, restored the doctor's health for the time. Below the village of Pak-u are some rapids called Keng Luang, where for some distance the river is encumbered with numerous blocks of stone. On approaching these, the traveller could hardly believe his eyes, as the rocks seemed to present carved figures. On a nearer approach, they were seen to represent buffaloes, elephants, tigers, crocodiles, and even human figures or groups of immodest character. The natural form of the rock had always been utilized, and at fifty paces or so the figures were perfectly recognizable (much less so on a closer inspection), except the eyes, which appeared to have been recently recut, probably at the annual feast of waters, recently over. Neither the boatmen nor the inhabitants of the village near by, where the party camped, would give any explanation of these carvings, or even talk about them. In this village around the pagodas, a sort of carpet-gardening had been practised, plants forming the outline of various figures; and the trees of the river-bank had been cut into the form of statues. One group very ingeniously trimmed represented an elephant: a vine had been carefully trained to form the trunk. On some rocks near by were pictures of five personages, of which two had had the hair and beard recently touched up. No explanation could be had of the use or purport of these things. Above the village of Kok-han was a hill eight or nine hundred feet high, called the elephant mountain, very well recalling a couchant elephant. The eye, due to a bare spot on the hillside, appeared to be carefully kept in order by the local priests. The mountaineers of this region do a good business in rice, cotton, tobacco, lac, gold-dust, and the astringent bark which the Laotians mix with their betel. These people, in talking with each other, do not say, 'From what district (or town) do you come?' but 'What water do you drink?' all tribes, towns, etc., being denominated according to the stream or brook by which they are situated. The villages of these mountaineers are generally on some small

hillock which is surrounded by a palisade, the several houses being elevated on piles for greater security. These people are called Khas. When a stranger comes, he is always offered a sort of beer made of rice. The first to drink is to be the first of the company to die. In cases where great deference is intended, the whole household drink before offering to the guest. They appear to belong to one, probably aboriginal, race with the Mois and other tribes of the Indo-Chinese mountains. They are intelligent, brave, and active, and do not fear the Hos, or Chinese pirates, who descend upon and devastate the Laotian villages, and are the terror of these people. At a large town, Muong-son, Dr. Neis found the river literally covered with rafts, upon which regular houses were built. Even the governing mandarin lived on a raft. On the alarm being given, all were ready to cut their hawsers and float down stream to avoid the dreaded Hos. The Laotians, being much less numerous than the Khas, have given up growing rice in the exposed districts, and purchase it from Khas, giving tin and earthenware, cotton and woollen cloth, and tools in exchange. To grow a crop they said would be a certain means of inviting a raid of Hos. Owing to the troubled state of the country, the explorer was obliged, after doing much important work, to retire, and fortunately reached Bangkok in safety, with all his notes, maps, and collections.

**Explorations in Perak.**—Interesting notes on the tin-mining of the peninsula of Malacca have been made public by Errington de la Croix, who has spent several years there in his quality of mining engineer. The tin is derived from the *débris* of granitoid rocks, which form the backbone of the peninsula. The mineral grains are very pure, separated by sluicing from the gravel, of which they form about six per cent: the washed product contains sixty-five to seventy per cent of pure tin. The work is entirely performed by coolies. The native inhabitants of the country, Sakayas and Malays, do no work; indeed, hardly exert themselves sufficiently to plant fruit-trees and rice to afford more than a subsistence for themselves. Many are fishers, some hunting is done, and a few domestic fowl and pigs are kept. The Chinese have adopted the Malay superstitions in regard to the spirits supposed to guard the mines. The visitor must take off his shoes and close his umbrella, or the spirit of the mine will decamp and take all the ore with him. At each locality the surface soil is stripped off, and the gravel is excavated to a depth of about twenty-five feet in open cuts. At each mine is a small altar to the divinity of the place, on which the Chinese make offerings of fruit and tea, and

explode bombs in honor of the spirit. Here and there are curious vertical-sided buttes of limestone, generally too steep for ascent, — the remnants of a sedimentary deposit which seems to have once covered large areas. At the base of one of these are usually found grottos, affording interesting crystalline formations and pleistocene fossils. The country is largely covered with dense forests, patches of jungle, marshes, and a few natural clearings. The forests are nearly devoid of life: few flowers, and those nearly colorless, are found. Birds and mammals are absent, and are to be found only in the clearings, where are immense troops of wild boars, large pythons, deer, and the carnivores which prey upon them. The chief pest is the leech, of which two kinds are found. One inhabits wet places; the other, the shrubbery. The latter seem to have acute perceptions. At the least sound they are on the *qui vive*, and raise themselves on the branches, waving their bodies about, ready for attack. They are an inch to an inch and a half in length, and very slender, making their way through loosely woven fabrics or under the clothing with ease. The bite continues to bleed, and often forms angry sores which are long in healing. Travel is generally performed on elephants, if by land. Mr. Errington testifies with astonishment to the intellectual capacity of these animals, and declares that all the stories he has heard in regard to their intelligence fall below the reality. The last few years have witnessed a wonderful advance in the product of tin from this region. Under the enlightened protectorate of Great Britain, and the enactment of more favorable laws, the product has risen from two thousand tons in 1876, to over seven thousand tons of bar tin per annum in 1883. Large and well-built towns have arisen; and the future of the country is bright, and only needs the introduction of sufficient labor and suitable agricultural methods to be put on a permanently prosperous basis.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

THE reports of the annual conference of librarians, which was held last summer at Lake George, extend through one hundred and seventy pages, a double number, of the *Library journal*. Amid a great deal of matter which relates simply to technical administration, and is therefore of interest to librarians only, there are several papers which will be useful to all those readers who have occasion to consult a public collection of books. Among the latter may be mentioned an account of the printing of the British museum catalogue, which is furnished by Mr. Richard Garnett of the museum.

Seventy-eight volumes, representing two hundred and ninety-five manuscript volumes of the museum, are printed already, fifty-eight of which are the letters A and B: twenty are from Virgil to Z. Extra copies of certain articles have been issued for separate sale; e.g., 'Aesop,' 'Aeschylus,' 'America,' 'Aristotle,' 'Bacon,' 'Horace,' 'Byron,' 'Swedenborg.' The great articles 'Academies' and 'Periodical literature' are nearly completed. 'Bible' is commenced, and it is hoped that 'Shakspeare,' 'Homer,' 'Liturgies,' and 'Dante' will follow at an early date. The catalogue, if completed, will be the largest catalogue in the world. Another noteworthy article, of a very different character, is that of F. B. Perkins of San Francisco, on the 'Free public library, its purposes and its abuses.' R. R. Bowker and T. H. McKee discuss the U. S. government publications and their distribution, — two instructive papers; E. M. Barton of Worcester advocates the distribution of duplicates; and W. F. Poole gives some excellent hints with respect to small library buildings. There are also several annual reports on cataloguing, college libraries, reading for the young, etc. There are no public officers in the country more co-operative and obliging than the librarians. Their desire to promote in every way the use of the collections intrusted to their charge is most commendable. They are rarely paid adequately, and are often overworked; but it is upon their skill, their enthusiasm, their learning, and their courtesy, that investigators, teachers, scholars, and writers of every class depend. The rapid increase of composition in this country is due to them in no small degree, and we predict that in the next five and twenty years there will be a corresponding growth in erudition.

— Prof. C. S. Sargent has republished in pamphlet form his excellent sketch of the career and work of Dr. Asa Gray, which was printed in the *New York Sun* on the seventy-fifth anniversary of his birth. It is the fullest and best account of his work which has been published, and full of interest for every one.

— Dr. Edward Laurens Mark has been appointed Hersey professor of anatomy in Harvard college. The place has been vacant since the death of Dr. Jeffries Wyman.

— A Winnipeg despatch to the *Chicago Tribune*, dated 17th instant, says: The explorations on the line of the proposed Hudson Bay railway from the north-east end of Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay, along the course of the Nelson River, have been completed; and Major Jarvis, with his party, reached Selkirk Saturday evening. The party