hæmatoscope being applied to the nail, which is exposed to the usual daylight (as strong as possible, but that from a house-window is enough), the energy of the exchange going on between oxygen and the tissues can be seen. This new idea is of great practical importance in the study of the phenomena of nutrition, both in physiological and in pathological states; so that such physicians as Professor Germain Sée are now taking the matter up and applying it to the study of many pathological states, such as anæmia, etc. Dr. Hénocque is one of Professor Brown-Séquard's best men. He has given the results of some three hundred and seventy cases in which experiments were made.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research. Vol. i. No. 3, 1887.

THE appearance of Miss Fletcher's paper upon 'The Supernatural among the Omaha Tribe of Indians,' in the Proceedings of the Psychic Research Society, is of importance, because it shows that this society is in part ready to take the anthropological view of such notions, to find their interest in the recording of such popular beliefs as a contribution to the statistics of human thought with no more reference to their possible objective verification than is necessary to shed light upon their origin. Apart from this, Miss Fletcher's paper is extremely interesting as showing the naturalness with which the supernatural enters into the every-day life of unenlightened people. It is also noteworthy that the Omaha ghost lets himself be heard so much more than seen, while with us the reverse is the case. This fact is very suggestive, and several aids to an explanation present themselves. It is also worth mentioning how little the evolution of terror is associated with the 'ghost-noises' of the Omahas.

All those who have followed the eventful career of the 'Phantasms of the Living'—the depository of the work of the English Psychic Research Society—will read with interest the controversy between Mr. C. S. Peirce, the well-known mathematician and logician, and Mr. Edmund Gurney. The former makes a detailed enumeration of all such cases regarded by Mr. Gurney and his associates as a proof of spontaneous telepathy, and shows that a large proportion of these suffer from serious omissions and fallacies, mainly sinning against the principles of the logic of induction. This brings a lengthy reply from Mr. Gurney, and a still longer rejoinder from Mr. Peirce. The discussion turns upon details, and must be read in full. Two points may be briefly noticed. The first relates to the estimation of the probability of a certain thought occurring to our minds within a given period. This is always a delicate task; and, as so much of our mental activity goes on in the region of the unconscious, it seems safer to make a very liberal estimate in this regard; and, if we do this, a larger number of coincidences of such presentiments as the death of a friend (as prompted by an undefined feeling about his welfare) with the actual occurrence will be attributable to chance. It is through the neglect of this consideration that the evidential value of many of the best cases is decidedly weakened. Next, as Mr. Peirce well argues, if we admit that the cases as they stand defy explanation by ordinary reasoning, it is very easy to invent half a dozen hypotheses explaining the facts as well as does the telepathic theory, and in the minds of many people by no means as improbable as the latter.

The reports of the several committees are more than usually satisfactory. The report of the committee on thought-transferrence, apart from an injudicious closing paragraph, is a frank confession of negative results. The committee on experimental psychology, of which Dr. C. S. Minot is the chairman, give the results of their inquiries as to the prevalence of a feeling sufficiently strong to influence action with reference (1) to sitting down thirteen at table, (2) to beginning a voyage on Friday, (3) to seeing the new moon over your left shoulder. The results are, that both in men and in women the most prevalent superstition is (3); the least prevalent is (1); and that about one man in ten, and two women in ten, acknowledge a belief in these superstitions. Furthermore, the question, whether in choosing between two otherwise equally desirable houses you would be influenced by the reputation of the one as haunted, is answered in the affirmative by forty-four men and sixty-six women in one hundred; but it should be added that a large number place this choice on accessory grounds, and not on the hauntedness of the house. Whether these statistics will be taken as marking the prevalence of frankness or of real superstition, must be left for each to decide.

The reports on haunted houses and on mediumistic phenomena presents few points of interest. The opposite is true of Mr. Cory's admirable observations on hypnotic phenomena. Only a single observation of the many ingenious tests devised by Mr. Cory can here be given. The fact that some hypnotic subjects can associate a suggested hallucination with a blank card, is explained by supposing that some trifling irregularity on the card serves to their hypersensitive senses as the direct excitant of the hallucination. This Mr. Cory supports, and really proves. A pencil with one end slightly nicked is placed on end on a mantel, and the subject is given the suggestion that nothing is upon the mantel. Then eleven other precisely similar pencils are placed on the mantel, when the subject is asked to count them, and counts eleven. A strip of board is so held as to cover the nick on the one pencil, and under this condition the subject counts twelve, showing that the sight of the nick sets the mind so as not to count that pencil.

This valuable number of the Proceedings is concluded with two notes from the pen of Prof. William James. In the first, Professor James gives the results of experiments upon the 're-action time' in the hypnotic state; showing that it is at times longer, and at times shorter, than in the normal state, and that a more detailed analysis of the kind of hypnosis is necessary to explain these results. The other brings together a number of important facts concerning the 'consciousness of lost limbs.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*** Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

Twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent on request.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

Diamonds in Meteorites.

ON Sept. 4, 1886, a meteoric stone weighing about four pounds fell at Novy Urej, Krasnoslobodsk, in the Government of Penza, Siberia. In this MM. Latchinoff and Jorefeif found what they supposed to be diamonds of microscopic size. In an insoluble residue small corpuscles, showing traces of polarization, were harder than corundum, and having the density and other characteristics of the diamond, and were present to the amount of one per cent of the whole mass (see *Nature*, Dec. 1, 1887). Through the courtesy of his Excellency Julien V. Siemaschko of St. Petersburg, I have been able to procure a small piece of the meteorite. Mr. H. Hensoldt, section-cutter at the School of Mines, very kindly prepared sections of the same, which I found to contain metallic iron in small thin plates, magnetite in small opaque grains, a plagioclase felspar, and olivine in oval grains, but was unable to detect any of these bodies in the sections. Prof. H. Carvill Lewis, to whom I sent the material, informed me that he had extracted two small oval bodies, almost isotropic, and showing no more traces of polarization than occur in many diamonds. With some other fragments of the meteorite, and not with these, he made two good scratches on a polished sapphire. He did not mount the crystals, because they were again lost: so I could not examine them. He was, however, inclined to support the views of the describers.

I found, that, by grinding with a sapphire four particles of the meteorite, I distinctly made a number of minute but deep scratches on each polished face of four different sapphires with each piece of meteorite. These scratches are characteristic of but one mineral that we know, and that is the diamond; but they are evidently so minute, that they form a coating or an aggregate over the other minerals, and were too small to distinguish, but yet exist in quantity, and may also possibly be the amorphous form of the diamond known as carbon or carbonado (?) Small pieces of the meteorite were then boiled for some time in hydrochloric, sulphuric, and nitro-muriatic acids. This readily removed all of the iron and magnetite, leaving only the skeletons of olivine, on which were small black particles, one of which was elongated but rounded, suggesting two joined cubes(?) On crushing one of these olivine pieces