

view of the field to be covered, for using an unnatural and antiquated classification and terminology, for ignoring the fields of greatest interest which have been so wonderfully developed during the present century, and for degrading true botany to the position of a mere language study. And I also impeach the men of our nation whose intelligence and special knowledge should make them fit judges in this matter for allowing such a state of affairs to exist without the most vigorous and continued protest, and for allowing a study of such practical value and one which might be made "not inferior as a logical praxis to the study of elementary geometry" to secure but a paltry ten weeks' time for its study even in a large majority of the normal schools of this State.

Let us hear from others on this subject. It is indeed time that the biologists of America awoke to the needs of the situation and did something for the pathognomonic condition of this long neglected patient. It is high time to take school botany out of the ruts of a dead past and place it where it may reflect the living science.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY. NO. XL.

(Edited by D. G. Brinton, M.D., LL. D., D. Sc.)

NEW FACTS IN AFRICAN ETHNOGRAPHY.

IN 1891 Dybowski was sent by the French Government into the eastern part of French Congo to punish a tribe for the murder of the traveller Crampel. He ascended to the Oubanghi, crossed an elevated plateau, and reached the head waters of streams flowing into Lake Tschad. Approaching this plateau, at about 5° north latitude, he found the dividing limit between the Bantu peoples of the south, and the tribes of the Sudan. The last tribe of the Bantu were the Bondjo, the first of the Sudanese were the Bandziri, a branch of the Niam-niam.

The contrast between these was strangely sharp. The Bondjo are extremely savage, slave dealers, and cannibals by taste, slaves being fattened for killing and their flesh sold in the open market. Nor is it dear, as one can buy a slave in good condition for the dining table for about three dollars. The Bondjo have a hideous appearance, owing to their prognathism and their custom of extracting the front teeth.

The Bandziri, on the other hand, are mild in manners, hospitable to travellers, their color a copper brown, large framed, with thin lips and good features. They are not cannibals, and live sedentary and agricultural lives.

An epitome of the results of Dybowski's journey appeared in a recent number of *Le Naturaliste*, Paris, from which these facts are taken.

THE FAR ASIATICS.

THE recent work of Mr. Savage Landor on the Ainu of the northern Japanese Archipelago is exciting a certain amount of attention by the vividness of his descriptions and his ability as an artist. It is doubtful, however, if the latter faculty does not at times carry him too far. An ethnologist of repute, who has travelled among these people, writes that he never saw such hairy specimens as Landor depicts; and certainly they are exaggerated types of what the best authorities have reported.

Mr. Landor has a new theory of the aborigines of the islands in question. He believes that the Ainu, coming from the north, conquered and dispossessed an older race, the Koro-pok-kuru, who were akin to the Eskimos, and had come to Yezo from the Aleutian Islands. It is something in the way of this that the western islands of the Aleutian archipelago were uninhabited when discovered, and showed no trace of a previous population.

In this general territory, Professor Schlegel, of Leyden, continues his labor of identifying the tribes mentioned in the

Chinese annals. (See *Science*, Sept. 9, 1892, and Dec. 22, 1893.) He suggests that "the people with black teeth," and those "with black legs" are the Tunguse of the lower Amoor River, who wear black seal skin boots reaching to the body. The "Land of Green Hills," where the foxes have nine tails, he thinks is Corea. A black people, north of the Ainu, referred to as "the wide-awake people," he considers to have been some branch of the Tunguse, darkened by exposure and dirt.

THE ZOREISCH INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA.

AN interesting article, likely to escape the notice of American ethnologists, has been recently published on the above tribe in the publication office of the Anthropological Society of Vienna. It includes the observations of Baron von Loeffelholz made in 1857, with additions of a later date by his son. Taken together, they present a vivid picture of the tribe, which at that date lived on Trinidad Bay, California, about 250 miles north of San Francisco, and was still in a highly primitive condition. For instance, not only were bows and arrows the usual weapons, but the arrow-heads were still manufactured of stone, the method of doing which is minutely described. The tribe was peaceable and honorable in its dealings. Much light is thrown upon its social customs. A short vocabulary is added, from which I see that it was a member of the Yurok linguistic stock. It has since been removed to a reservation and is extinct, or nearly so.

QUESTIONS IN DEMOGRAPHY.

THE Eighth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography will be held at Budapest, from the first to the ninth of September next. The demographic part will especially interest the anthropologist. The secretary general, Dr. C. Muller, Rochus Hospital, Budapest, will send full particulars.

The demographic wing includes historical demography, anthropometry, presided over by the well-known scientist, Dr. Aur. Torok, demography of the agricultural classes, of towns, etc., and the statistical study of bodily and mental defects. A number of definite questions are presented for investigation and discussion under each of these headings. It is to be hoped that the United States will not be without competent representatives at this important meeting.

THE NURAGHS OF SARDINIA.

THE name *nurag* is given in Sardinia to certain ancient stone structures, which are very abundant in parts of the island. The walls are thick, the stones laid without mortar, well fitted together. The entrance is low and leads to interior chambers enclosed with ogival arches, giving the room the shape of half an egg-shell.

The builders and the date of construction of these edifices have been a puzzle from the days of Diodorus Siculus, who mentions them then as very ancient. A writer in *La Nature*, for October, 1893, reviewing the recent evidence obtained by excavation, shows that they were built by a people acquainted with bronze, copper, tin and lead; who wore metal helmets, and used metal swords; and hence lived in the bronze age. Basing his opinion on the character of these relics and supported by some very early classical traditions, he maintains that the builders were Libyans, who came from Africa, seized a portion of the island, populated it, and constructed these solid forts as refuges and defensive works.

To this it may be objected that similar buildings have not been discovered in north Africa; but it is also true that much of the territory there is unexplored; that the Roman occupation used the material of the old buildings for new ones; and that rumors have reached travellers of extensive and ancient stone ruins in the remoter valleys of the Atlas. The theory, therefore, is not without a fair probability in its favor.