

CLIMATE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

IN a recent account of the Falkland Islands (Scot. Geogr. Mag., May, 1896, 241-252) mention is made of a striking effect of the high winds which are characteristic of the higher latitudes of the South Temperate Zone and are a marked feature of the climate of the Falklands. Owing to their being obliged constantly to beat against these violent winds, the inhabitants have acquired a peculiar gait that is so noticeable as to have gained for them the name of 'kelpers,' which is sometimes used as synonymous with 'natives.' R. DE C. WARD.
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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

RACIAL ELEMENTS IN ASSAM.

IN the *Times* of Assam, February 8, 1896, Mr. S. R. Peal gives the results of his extensive studies of the racial constitution of the Assamese people. The aboriginal inhabitants he believes to have been Dravidian, though at present he would not assign more than five per cent. to that element. They were overlaid by the intrusive Mon from the east, a monosyllabic stock, who in time were followed by a small invasion of Tibetans. All of these were weak and of low culture. The Hindu religions, the Aryan physique and the prevailing tongue were introduced by the immigration of Sanskrit-speaking conquerors at a remote epoch. They left such a profound impress on the earlier population and the existing Assamese language that Mr. Peal says of it: "With the exception of the Bengali, there is probably no derivative from the Sanskrit that bears a closer affinity to its parent." This was the extreme limit of the wave of Aryan migration which swept eastward across Bengal. The conquering Ahoms, from Siam, who in later centuries gained temporary control of Assam, exerted little permanent influence on its civilization or language.

THE TUPI LINGUISTIC STOCK.

THE eighteenth volume of the *Bibliothèque Linguistique Américaine* (Maison-neuve, Paris), which has just appeared, is a valuable member of the series. It presents the elements of a comparative grammar of the dialects of the Tupi linguistic stock of South America, prepared by the able pen of M. Lucien Adam, to whom we owe so many analyses of American tongues. The southern Tupi is known as the Guarani; and the 'Lingoa Geral,' spoken throughout Brazil, is a corrupt form of the same idiom. The stock is widely diffused, extending from Paraguay to Guiana, and for thousands of miles along the Amazon and its tributaries. Its literature is quite extended, the bibliography of it published in 1880 by Valle Cabral, numbering over three hundred titles.

M. Adam presents an analysis, carried through the principal dialects, of the phonetic laws of the stock, the expressions of the relations of possession and action (genitive and nominative), the pronouns, and an elaborate study of the conjugation. A comparative vocabulary with 358 titles is an extremely useful appendage.

The collation of the literature which he has utilized includes most of the best works, but I regret not to see included the excellent studies on the Neengatu of the late Mr. C. F. Hartt.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE COLORS NAMED IN LITERATURE.

MR. HAVELOCK ELLIS has made (*Contemporary Review*, May) an interesting study of the color terms used by imaginative writers, which is a real contribution to scientific æsthetics. The fact that the Greeks did not name green and blue does not, of course, indicate (as Mr. Gladstone and others have alleged) that they could not see the more refrangible rays of the spectrum, but it does show a lack of interest in