

subject, but anyone who is alive to its importance, and who reads with his eyes open, will not fail to find abundant material.

KITE METEOROLOGY.

THE literature of kite meteorology is increasing at a rapid rate, and even now anyone who wishes to be well informed in regard to this interesting subject will find that there is a good deal of reading to be done. As has already been stated in these notes, Prof. C. F. Marvin, of the Weather Bureau, has been giving a large share of his time to the development of scientific kite-flying, and the United States at present enjoys the distinction of being the only country whose weather service has officially undertaken such a piece of work. That Prof. Marvin's investigations have been very thoroughly carried on is shown in a series of articles he has written for the *Monthly Weather Review* for April, May, June and July, 1896, in which the results already attained are set forth. These articles taken together make the most complete and most elaborate publication yet issued on the subject of scientific kite-flying. The details of kite construction, the best materials for kites and cord, the analysis of the forces acting on the kites, the calculation of the heights attained, and other matters, are considered, and many illustrations accompany the text.

R. DE C. WARD.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE GERMAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THIS Association held its twenty-seventh annual session in August, at Speier. Prof. Virchow delivered the opening address, largely concerned with the craniology of German prehistoric graves. Most of the papers were local in character, on the Archaeology and Ethnography of Central Europe.

Exceptions to this were, one by Dr. Hagen, on the Papuas of New Guinea; by Dr. Ranke, on Fossil Men; by Baron von Andrian, on Word-Superstitions, and by Prof. Virchow on Criminal Anthropology.

In the last mentioned the distinguished German professor pointed out the errors in Lombroso's theory, which he compared with phrenology in its arbitrary and unscientific character. Dr. Ranke sketched the physical traits of the earliest men. They had one type. They were 'eurycephalic' (the brain-skull large in reference to the face, the face-skull small); their color was yellowish; the hair coarse; the base of the skull oblique; the third molar rudimentary. He believed they originated in Asia. Dr. Waldeyer discussed men with tails. He had microscopically examined one instance and found the tail just like that of a hog, that is, not bony, but cartilaginous, with nerves, arteries, etc. He thought the wonder is, not that men occasionally have tails, but that they are ever without them!

The next meeting of the Society will be held at Lubeck.

EARLY MEDITERRANEAN CULTURE.

THE address of Mr. Arthur J. Evans, President of the Anthropological Section of the British Association this year is peculiarly rich in new facts and suggestions.

He returned but a few months since from his third archaeological exploration of the island of Crete and brings back with him ample evidence of the intimate contact of the natives of that island with the culture of Egypt probably as early as 2500 B. C.

No doubt the rays of this primitive insular civilization shone athwart the middle sea to the isles of Greece and the northern shores. But not on them alone did the wise of the race depend. Mr. Evans points out that the Mycenaean culture of pre-Homeric days probably sprang from roots which we must seek in the soil of Anatolia, in that

Egean art which developed in the favored vales of Phrygia and Lydia.

Other questions, of broader scope, are also touched upon by Mr. Evans. Dismissing the 'glamour of the Orient,' rejecting the orthodox notion that the primitive Aryan was some sort of a 'patriarchial missionary of Central Asian culture,' he declares for the greater probability that what the Aryan knew he had learned by study on the spot, and that his lineage is to be traced in European or 'Eurafrican,' surroundings from far back into the darkness of paleolithic times. Even then, in that rude and distant period, he was not of the brutes, brutish; for Mr. Evans relates an unpublished find of a surface burial, dating from Quaternary times, where the corpse had been laid in a position of decent repose, the shell knife, the deer's tooth ornaments and the paint pot by its side.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

DR. SEE's recent discovery of a companion to Sirius has been followed by observations at the Lick Observatory, according to a letter received from Prof. Holden. Profs. Schaeberle and Aitken, observing with the 36-inch, find the position angle of the companion to be about 189° , while Dr. See, Mr. Douglass and Mr. Cogshall, observing with the large telescope of the Lowell Observatory, found 220° . As Dr. Auwers's ephemeris in *Astronomische Nachrichten* No. 3085 gives 176° for this position angle, it is evident that the whole matter will require further elucidation.

THE Saxon Academy of Sciences has published an extended paper by Dr. J. Hartmann on eclipses of the moon. It forms a sequel to the same astronomer's well known work on the best value of the moon's diameter to be used in the prediction of lunar eclipses.

H. J.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

SCIENCE, DEMOCRACY AND THE UNIVERSITY.

PROFESSOR WOODROW WILSON's oration at the Princeton Sesquicentennial Celebration was admirable as a work of literary art; but as an official address, representing the policy of a great college aiming to become a university, it challenges criticism. Professor Wilson chooses his words carefully and enters caveats against his own conclusions. But on the whole he advocates the monastic ideal for a university; he mistrusts modern democracy and deplores modern science. For him the university is "a place removed—calm Science seated there, recluse, ascetic, like a nun, not knowing that the world passes, not caring if the truth but come in answer to her prayer; and Literature, walking within her open doors in quiet chambers with men of olden time, storied walls about her and calm voices infinitely sweet; here 'magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas in fairy lands forlorn,' to which you may withdraw and use your youth for pleasure."

For us Science is no 'recluse, ascetic, like a nun,' 'doing us a great disservice, working in us a great degeneracy when it mingles in the affairs of the modern world.' If we must choose a mediæval simile, Science is rather Dürer's Knight, firmly seated on truth, not minding death greatly, looking forward without fear, ready to aid and, if need be, to kill. The democracy of to-day has been made possible by science, and science will control its future. We are not ashamed of the alliance; it is better for some men to think unwisely than for most men not to think at all. Progress can only result from variations, and favorable variations cannot occur apart from such as are harmful. We do not retire from the world to use 'our youth for pleasure' and our age for contemplation. We stand as leaders amidst a conflict whose outcome we shall decide.

Professor Wilson tells us that "the world's memory must be kept alive, or we shall never see the end of its old mistakes. We are in danger to lose our identity and become infantile in every generation. That is the real menace under which we cower everywhere in this age of change." Such utilitarianism is futile. We are the past; it is alive in us and in our enviro-