

tary, 2 caracaras, 1 Australian thick-knee, 1 snapping turtle, 20 grey parrots, 12 green parrots, 20 king lorries, 1 China lori, 4 Pennant's parakeets, 3 Roselle's parakeets, 12 large cockatoos, 16 rose cockatels, 5 Leadbeater's cockatoos, 3 Nasicu cockatoos, 1 China cockatoo, 10 pair cockatilles, 4 large white-crested cockatoos, 1 male bloodwing, 1 mealy rosella, 6 ringnecked parakeets, 2 Alexandrine parakeets, 1 dwarf parrot, 2 rare Amazones, 7 pair Carolina parrots, piping crow, 1 mynah, 60 pair African love-birds, 80 nonpareils, 1 hang nest, 1 Indian crow pheasant, 55 pairs St. Helena wax-bills, 60 Virginian nightingales, 20 grey cardinals, 16 popebirds, 20 pair Java sparrows, Wydah birds (yellow-backed, red-shouldered, Cape of Good Hope), Madagascar grosbeaks, zebra waxbills, chesnut finches, Napoleon bishops, common bishops, harlequin doves, zebra doves, Australian doves, necklace doves, 3 blue Australian porphyrios."

WE notice that an individual was examined on Tuesday at Worship Street on the charge of sweating sovereigns. The details of the case, which are of considerable importance to the public, will be watched with interest. It appears that the coins are dissolved by acid, aided by a battery, and that the loss in some cases equals about two shillings in the sovereign.

IN the track of vessels from Australia to China lies an island called Pleasant Island. Previous to 1865, the natives had a bad reputation. A Captain Brown reported favourably of them in that year, and mentioned that he was told that an Englishman was residing there. In August 1868, Captain Hall, of the barque *Glenisle*, was boarded by the island canoes, and two whale-boats, with two Englishmen, one of whom had been twenty-eight years on the island, and had a son eighteen years of age. They told him they tried to visit all ships passing within easy distance, and seemed anxious for it to be known that they could supply ships with pigs and cocoa-nut oil. By his advice they purposed to cultivate potatoes, and gave him *an advertisement* to put in the colonial papers. Unfortunately, this document has baffled all attempts to decipher it, from the faulty writing. The island was stated by them to be nine miles across, and twenty two miles in circumference.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

[We have been favoured by the Count Marshal of Austria with the following abstracts of the more important papers read at the Innsbruck Congress.]

Prof. Semper on the Natives of the Pellew Islands

THESE natives have come to a comparatively rather high degree of civilisation, and have been wronged by being ranked among the primitive savages. Prof. Semper, who has lived several months among them, proves his assertion by a detailed exposition of their political, social, and religious institutions. The residence of the pontiff-king and the house where the chieftains of tribes hold their meetings, are decorated with painted basso-relievos. The traces of a commixture of the natives with the Malayan race are insignificant; they seem, however, to have mixed notably with the Papuans.

Prof. Strobel on the Paraderos of Patagonia

THESE "Paraderos" (from the Spanish verb *parar*, to stay) are accumulations of remnants of repasts, fragments of pottery, unpolished stone-knives, arrow-heads, &c., superficially covered with blown sand. In one of these accumulations a human skeleton, and several skulls of brachy-hypocephalous type, were found. The pottery had evidently been shaped by hand, and burnt hard by an open fire—not in furnaces. The distinction between a Palæolithic and a Neolithic period cannot be maintained with respect to the southern-most portion of South America; no polished stone-implements having hitherto been found south of St. Luis in the centre of the Pampas, although grinding-stones and polishable minerals are not wanting there. The polished stone-implements found at

St. Luis may have been imported from Peru. The objects found in the Paraderos must be anterior to the European invasion; neither the Patagonians nor the Indians of the Pampas using at present any stone-weapons, but being armed with lassoes, bolas, and lances. Arrows and bows having gone out of use since the introduction of horses by the Europeans. The Indians of Chaco and the inhabitants of Terra del Fuego, who have refused to use horses, still use arrows as a weapon. Horsemanship seems not to have had any diminishing action on the size of the Patagonians, still conspicuous for tallness; the inhabitants of Terra del Fuego, though no horsemen, being rather of small size. Prof. C. Vogt said that the collections made in South America by Mr. Clary have safely arrived in Europe, and that among them is a human lower jaw of uncommon size. Prof. Selgmann observed that the skeleton of a giant, in the museum of Innsbruck, offers likewise an uncommonly developed lower jaw, a peculiarity mentioned by Prof. Langer as generally connected with gigantic size. Prof. Virchow remarked that the outline of the jaw in question is rather curved than angular.

Prof. Virchow on Comparative Measurements of Crania

IT is uncertain whether the great number of crania found in Denmark in sepultures of the Stone Period, belonged to the persons of rank, or to those immolated to honour them—as Mr. Worsaae concludes from the circumstances under which they have been found. At all events, they must have belonged to inhabitants of the Danish isles, or of their immediate neighbourhood. Ninety-six crania have been extracted from one single sepulture near Borreby. Those from the first part of the Bronze Period, when the dead were buried unburnt, are not abundant. Eschricht and Nilsson agree in ascribing the crania of the Stone Period to Laplanders or Esquimaux. The crania of the Greenlanders are conspicuously Dolichocephalous, not to say Scaphocephalous. The insertions of the temporal muscles are unusually distinct, the temporal ridges reaching beyond the *tubera parietalia*; the root of the nose is very narrow and the eyes very near to each other; the facial portion is more developed than in any other race. The few Dolichocephalous crania found in the sepultures are far from offering any analogy to those of Greenlanders. The Laplanders are known to be a Brachycephalous race, whose outward form is evidently the result of their mode of living. The temporal diameter of the crania of this people is ordinarily very considerable, the root of the nose is very broad, and the middle of the lower jaw conspicuously compressed. The crania from the sepultures do not bear more than a distant resemblance to the type just described. The crania of the Finnic race—abstraction made of individual variations—are relatively Brachy-hypocephalous. The Danish crania here in question may be possibly of Finnic origin, the more, as history proves this race to have spread formerly far more southward in Scandinavia than at present. Two forms may be distinguished among these crania, not so discrepant, however, as to indicate the co-existence of two distinct nations, although a commixture between two nations may have taken place. The Slavonians are nearly generally admitted to be Brachycephalous, and the Germans to be Dolichocephalous; the Poles and the Wends, however, make an exception to this rule, being anything but Brachycephalous. Crania from peat-bogs of North Germany exhibited to the Anthropological Congress, held at Paris in 1867, are decidedly Dolichocephalous, not Prognathous, without a decidedly ferocious expression, &c. Those extracted from the Danish peat-bogs exactly resemble them, and have, moreover, the greatest analogy with the crania of the Basques, a nation which (as may be historically ascertained) had spread in ancient times over Southern France and North Italy under the denomination of "Iberians." It results from all this, with some degree of probability, that the nation to which the skulls in the peat-bogs are to be referred was rather of Meridional than of Septentrional origin. Chronological dates, relating to the crania here in question, are still insufficient. At present, no trace of man's existence during the reindeer-period has been ascertained in North Germany. Remains of reindeer have been found in Mecklenburg and lately (probably) in the Uckermark, but not associated with any products of human industry. The co-existence of the Dolichocephali, whose remains have been found in peat-bogs, with the reindeer, is therefore not yet proved, although in some degree probable.

Prof. Seligmann on Exostoses in the Meatus auditorius of Peruvian Crania

SOME years ago Prof. Seligmann found on Peruvian crania of the Titicaca form (cylindrical, elongated by bandages) considerable exostoses on the external meatus auditorius, a very rare morbid affection. No traces of such exostoses were found on the other variety of Peruvian crania so nearly related to the North American form, and, like these, flattened by pressure between boards. The crania first referred to are most similar to the so-called *Avarian* skulls, to be met with from Austria as far as into France; but exostoses have never been found on any of these last. The cause of these exostoses was at last found out in the narrative of the conquest of Peru by coeval Spanish authors, all describing the solemn inauguration of the descendants of the Incas, who had come to the age of sixteen years. They were then compelled to undergo most exciting exertions of body and mind, and the hardest privations; the ceremony of piercing the ears being the term of these severe trials. The lobes of both ears were widened by introduction of metallic cylinders, so that a gold or silver disc of the diameter of an orange could find room in each of them. The Spaniards designated the wearers of this distinction as "Orejones" (Great-ears). A Spanish author says, it would scarcely be credible that the lobes of the ear could bear such a weighty ornament if they were not sustained by a loop of a finger's size. The excitement attending the trials, the comparatively late epoch of the operation, together with its rapid and violent mode of performance, may possibly have provoked a pathological process affecting the cartilaginous, and, subsequently, the osseous portion of the ears. Many tribes lengthen the lobes of their ears by introducing pieces of wood, &c., and a South American tribe is named "Orejones" on account of this custom; in these cases, however, the lengthened portion is relaxed. If the above supposition is exact, it leads to the following result: all the Peruvian crania of the Titicaca form, offering the above-described exostoses, are those of male individuals of high caste, having passed their sixteenth year; and the appellation "Inca crania," hitherto applied to flattened Peruvian skulls, is inexact. Deafness was not the necessary consequence of these exostoses, the narrowest aperture of the meatus auditorius being sufficient for the perception of sounds.

Dr. Glatter on the Influence of Race-differences on the Vital Processes

THIS influence is evident in the descendants of an Italian colony, living at Lemberg, who are in the habit of entrusting themselves for treatment to native Italian physicians, who, according to their custom, treat their patients with frequent bleedings, to the amount of 8 to 10 ounces, without any damage to their health. Poles, submitted to the same treatment, often suffer very bad consequences from it. The natives of Alpine regions established at Vienna are endowed with a high degree of vitality, and generally of longevity. The Servians are very prolific in their native country; north of Mohacs, however, the number of births among them is diminishing, so that the population of Servian places approaches extinction. Births are numerous and easy, and deaths comparatively few among Jews in every country, thus proving their strong accommodative power, and consequently their aptitude for commercial business. At Pesth, Jewish merchants reach a higher average age than Christian ones; the reverse is the case there among workmen, as tailors, &c. Suicide is rare, mental alienation frequent among Jews. Among Magyars, the number of births is moderate, the mortality rather great, and as a necessary consequence, the Slavonian population is more and more encroaching on them. Notwithstanding the very notable introduction of Turkish blood during the long occupation in the sixteenth and seventeenth century, the Finnic race and characters have suffered but little alteration, as proved by the striking similitude between Magyar and Finnic crania. The Hungarian Slovaks possess a high degree of vitality, and, notwithstanding certain noxious customs (hot wine given to women immediately after parturition, and brandy given to sucking babes), the mortality among them is anything but considerable. The Wends, living in groups in the Comitatus of Wieselburg, are tall, with small heads, and, notwithstanding their irregular and excessive mode of living, generally attain to a good old age. The Germans in the Comitatus of Pesth are all very prolific, but their number increases but moderately, as the rate of mortality is rather considerable. The Roumanians are reported to be generally of small size, with rather light brain, and to be subject to tuberculosis and to caries of the teeth.

The Poles are more affected by epidemics than the Ruthenians; deaths among them are more numerous than births, while the Ruthenian population is constantly increasing in numbers. Prof. Sigmund has observed in the case of Italians and Spaniards, that wounds are more inclined to gangrene than in individuals of other races.

Prof. C. Vogt on a Microcephalous Subject

THE data concerning this subject have been communicated by M. de Vilanova, Professor of Geology at Madrid. His name is Vincenzo Ortis, of Codina, born at Castillon del Duca (province of Valencia), in 1813. The dimensions of his head are: facial angle, 59°; circumference of the cranium, 0.46 metres; upper arch, 0.19 m.; longitudinal diameter, 0.14 m.; transverse diameter, 12 m. His total length does not exceed 1 metre. The sternal limbs are very long, with a rudimentary sixth finger on each hand; the abdominal members are short, with a sixth toe on each foot; his whole body is covered with long hairs. His character is rather meek and timid; when irritated he tears his clothes without doing harm to others. He is unable to speak, but makes very expressive faces. His mode of progression is by leaps. The comparatively advanced age of fifty-six years, and the existence of six fingers and toes, make Ortis an exception among Microcephalous subjects.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

LONDON

Royal Society, January 13.—The following papers were read:—"On the Mineral Constituents of Meteorites," by Nevil Story-Maskelyne, M.A., Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Oxford, and Keeper of the Mineral Department, British Museum. Communicated by Prof. H. J. Stephen Smith, F.R.S. [We are compelled to postpone an abstract of this paper.]

"On Fluoride of Silver." Part I. By George Gore, F.R.S. This communication treats of the formation, preparation, analysis, composition, common physical properties, and chemical behaviour of fluoride of silver. The salt was prepared by treating pure silver carbonate with an excess of pure aqueous hydrofluoric acid in a platinum dish, and evaporating to dryness, with certain precautions. The salt thus obtained invariably contains a small amount of free metallic silver, and generally also traces of water and of hydrofluoric acid, unless special precautions mentioned are observed. It was analysed by various methods: the best method of determining the amount of fluorine in it consisted in evaporating to dryness a mixture of a known weight of the salt dissolved in water, with a slight excess of pure and perfectly caustic lime in a platinum bottle, and gently igniting the residue at an incipient red heat until it ceased to lose weight. By taking proper care, the results obtained are accurate. The reaction in this method of analysis takes place according to the following equation: $2\text{AgF} + \text{CaO} = \text{CaF}_2 + 2\text{Ag} + \text{O}$. Sixteen parts of oxygen expelled equal thirty-eight parts of fluorine present. One of the methods employed for determining the amount of silver consisted in passing dry ammonia over the salt in a platinum boat and tube at a low red heat. The results obtained in the various analyses establish the fact that pure fluoride of silver consists of nineteen parts of fluorine and 108 of silver. Argentic fluoride is usually in the form of yellowish brown earthy fragments; but when rendered perfectly anhydrous by fusion, it is a black horny mass, with a superficial satin lustre, due to particles of free silver. It is extremely deliquescent and soluble in water; one part of the salt dissolves in 55 part by weight of water at 15° 5 C.; it evolves heat in dissolving, and forms a strongly alkaline solution. It is nearly insoluble in absolute alcohol. The specific gravity of the earthy-brown salt is 5.842 at 15° 5 C.; the specific gravity of its aqueous solution, at 15° 5 C., saturated at that temperature, is 2.61. By chilling the saturated solution, it exhibited the phenomenon of supersaturation and suddenly solidified, with evolution of heat, on immersing a platinum plate in it. The solution is capable of being crystallised, and yields crystals of a hydrated salt; the act of crystallisation is attended by the singular phenomenon of the remainder of the salt separating in the anhydrous and apparently non-crystalline state, the hydrated salt taking to itself the whole of the water. The fused salt, after slow and undisturbed cooling, exhibits crystalline markings upon its surface. The dry salt is not decomposed by sunlight; it melts below a visible red heat, and forms a highly lustrous, mobile, and jet-black liquid. It is not decomposed by a red heat alone; but in the state of semi-fusion or of complete fusion it is rapidly decomposed by the