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1881.

Amongst the very many interesting speculations and conclusions in this work, one which is sure to draw attention is when the author in concluding his third chapter on the Miocene Period decides that there is "no proof of man in Europe in the Miocene age," and in discussing the opinion to the contrary put forth by Dr. Hamy, M. de Mortillet and others, founded in part on splinters of flint found in Mid-Miocene strata at Thenay and on a notched fragment of a rib of an extinct kind of *Manatee* (*Halitherium*) found at Pouancé, remarks that if these be artificial, he would suggest "that they were made by one of the higher apes then living in France rather than by man."

"FOSSIL MEN AND THEIR MODERN REPRESENTATIVES." An attempt to illustrate the characters and condition of prehistoric men in Europe, by those of the American Races. By J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1880.

This work is written in a different spirit and with different aims to Prof. Boyd Dawkins' great work on the same subject. Principal Dawson clearly states this on the penultimate page of his book: "My object, as stated in the first chapter of this work, has been to bring the testimony of facts relating to the existing or recently extinct tribes of America, to aid in correction and counteraction of the crude views prevalent among European archaeologists as to the origin and antiquity of the prehistoric men of the caves, gravels and peats, of the Eastern Continent. The treatment of the subject has naturally been meagre and imperfect; but it will have served its purpose if it has been suggestive of lines of thought in harmony with higher views as to the origin and destinies of men than those which spring from monistic and materialistic hypotheses of the spontaneous evolution of consciousness, reason and morality from merely animal instincts." The book is full of most interesting illustrations, and written in a clear and pleasant manner, but whether it will carry convictions to those with whose views the author does not agree, is a question perhaps beyond our province to ask or answer.

"THE FOLK-LORE, MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND LANGUAGES OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES, GATHERED FROM INQUIRIES MADE BY AUTHORITY OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT." Edited by the late Rev. G. TAPLIN, of Point Macleay. 1st Series. Adelaide, 1879.

In the year 1874 a circular and letter was received by Sir A. Musgrave, then Governor of South Australia, from Dr. Bleek, of Cape Town, proposing that, as inquiries had been made and interesting information elicited respecting the manners and customs—and especially folk-lore—of the aborigines of South Africa, similar inquiries should be instituted about the aborigines of South Australia. This suggestion was adopted, and on the

suggestion of Mr. Taplin a series of questions were prepared and distributed to all the keepers of aborigines' depôts throughout the colony, and to all persons who were known to be acquainted with the manners, customs, and languages of the aborigines, Twenty-four of the circulars of questions were filled up and replied to, and these form the material for the present volume, which we may hope is really, as the title states, only the "first series."

In discussing the origin of these people, Mr. Taplin well remarks that "autochthony remains a word only," and he inclines to the opinion that "the weight of evidence is in favour of their identity with the races inhabiting the continents and archipelagoes to the north and east, where we find the same system of kinship, the same customs, the same mental characteristics, and the same kinds of sorcery." It is not, however, for theories that this book will be valued and consulted, but rather for its mass of useful and in some cases most valuable information.

In discussing the fecundity of the Narrinyeri, fresh evidence is given for the denial of the exploded but lingering statement that if a woman has a half-caste child she never has another of her own race; and the results of the free use of tobacco by these women as stated at p. 47 is very curious, and will require corroboration before it can perhaps be made a "rule absolute"—"When a woman smokes a great deal during her pregnancy the child which she bears is always excessively fat. Such a child will resemble one of those little fat Chinese pigs, so abnormally fat will it be. Often a native woman is complimented on the plumpness of her baby when it arises solely from this cause. But to a person accustomed to see native children this fatness is known to be peculiar in its character. The child is round and bloated and unhealthy, although so fat; and in every instance such infants have died. I never knew one that survived the troubles of dentition and weaning."

Among the "Dieyerie" tribe cannibalistic practices of the most disgusting description are reported to take place as part of the funeral rites; the reason assigned being that "the nearest relatives may forget the departed and not be continually crying."

The following is the order in which they partake of their relatives:—

"The mother eats of her children.

"The children eat of their mother.

"Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law eat of each other.

"Uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, grandfathers, and grandmothers eat of each other.

"But the father does not eat of his offspring, or the offspring of his sire."

Other rites, which it would only be an insult to the rest of the animal world to call brutal, as they practise nothing of the kind, may be found fully described, such as the "ceremony of initiating the youths into manhood," p. 99; "circumcision," p. 79, etc.

Some interesting observations are made on the hair of these people. "They are a very hirsute race. Almost all have long

beards and monstaches, and the whole body of the men is covered with hair. Old men who have never worn clothes are especially hairy. The women, after they have left off child-bearing, generally have more or less whiskers. I have known women with whiskers of which many a man would be proud. They recognise this as a sign that they will not have any more children, and I think they are right."

The work is well illustrated; many excellent photographs of natives and their manufactures being given. It also abounds with philological notes, and contains a Grammar of the Narrinyeri Tribe of Aborigines. We heartily agree with and reiterate the last words of the editor's preface—"The writer commends the following pages to those who seek for truth respecting the human race, and who would gather up every contribution which may cast light upon the natural history of mankind."

"DIE ETHNOGRAPHISCH-ANTHROPOLOGISCHE ABTHEILUNG DES MUSEUM GODEFFROY IN HAMBURG." Ein Beitrag zur Kunde der Südsee-Völker von J. D. E. Schmeltz und Dr. med. R. Krause, Hamburg. L. Friederischen and Co. 1881 (*sic*).

The publishers in their prospectus of this Catalogue state that the scientific matter comprised therein has exceeded even the expectations of the editors, and has now grown to such an extent and importance that they do not hesitate in rather calling the volume a "Handbook of Ethnography and Ethnology of the South-Sea Tribes."

"The catalogue is arranged in geographical order, beginning from Australia. Each part begins with a more or less detailed description of nearly all the islands of the Pacific Ocean, exhibiting them from the view of the geographer as well as that of the naturalist, and ends with a detailed description of the ethnographical objects of the museum, viz.—(a) objects of religious worship; (b) clothing and ornaments; (c) weapons and arms; (d) utensils, musical instruments, etc." To these are added bibliographical and sometimes critical notes.

The following may be taken as one example included in Sect. XIII, "Der Archipel Viti," "Clubs."

"2159 bis 65 aus dem Innern von Viti-Lévu."

"Wilkes, Vol. III., p. 343 und p. 262 (nach unten gerichtete Keule rechts). Christmann II., p. 157, Fig. b. Specht, Taf. VI., Fig. 2 (Nicht sehr gut!) Klemm., Fig. 44. Klemm., Kultrugeach Vol. IV., Taf. IV., oberste Figur. Curaçoa, oberste Fig. rechts auf Taf. bei, p. 222. Delessert, p. 192, Fig. 52. Williams, p. 59, 2. Reihe, mittlere Fig."

The work is illustrated with 46 plates, and furnished with an ethnological map divided into "Polynesian, Mikronesien and Molanesien," regions.