

(5) In view of these and other considerations, the name *Amerind* is commended to the consideration of American and foreign students of tribes and peoples. The term is an arbitrary compound of the leading syllables of the frequently-used phrase "American Indian"; it thus carries a connotive or associative element which will serve explicative and mnemonic function in early use, yet must tend to disappear as the name becomes denotive through habitual use.

(6) The proposed term carries no implication of classic relation, raises no mooted question concerning the origin or distribution of races, and perpetuates no obsolete idea; so far as the facts and theories of ethnology are concerned, it is purely denotive.

(7) The proposed term is sufficiently brief and euphonious for all practical purposes, not only in the English, but in the prevailing languages of continental Europe; and it may readily be pluralised in these languages, in accordance with their respective rules, without losing its distinctive semantic character. Moreover, it lends itself readily to adjectival termination in two forms (a desideratum in widely-used ethnologic terms, as experience has shown), viz. *Amerindian* and *Amerindic*, and is susceptible, also, of adverbial termination, while it can readily be used in the requisite actional form, *Amerindise*, or in relational form, such as *post-Amerindian*, &c.; the affixes being, of course, modifiable according to the rules of the different languages in which the term may be used.

(8) The term is proposed as a designation for all of the aboriginal tribes of the American continent and adjacent islands, including the Eskimo.

The working ethnologists in the Society were practically unanimous in approving the term for tentative adoption, and for commendation to fellow-students in this and other countries.

#### MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS AT MAURITIUS.<sup>1</sup>

DR. MELDRUM'S name is inseparably connected with the fortunes of the Royal Alfred Observatory. The value of his researches in meteorology, especially in cyclonic movements of the atmosphere, has been repeatedly acknowledged. The simple rules that he has enunciated for the handling of ships during hurricanes in the Southern Seas are based upon rigorous scientific grounds, and though it may be true that no completely satisfactory rule is possible for determining more than the approximate position of the central vortex of a cyclone by any observations at a single station, yet in a majority of cases the mariner who trusts strictly to the instructions provided will find himself in a position of safety. The recent publication of the Mauritius magnetic reductions by Mr. Claxton, the present director of the Royal Alfred Observatory, shows that Dr. Meldrum devoted himself not less energetically to the study of the absolute determinations of the magnetic elements of his station. We may never arrive at the happy condition foreshadowed by Gauss, when trustworthy and complete observations from all parts of the earth shall be obtained, but the possession of a continuous record from a distant outlying station has a value peculiarly its own, and may act as a stimulus to the establishment of other observatories in localities where they are most needed to provide material for the discussion of the amount of change in the magnetic potential of the earth, of which the simultaneous magnetic disturbances afford evidence.

Mr. Claxton, with a loyalty which we recognise and appreciate, is content to stand aside and play the part of editor to his predecessor's work. But the arrangement is not very satisfactory, giving rise as it does to two introductions, one by the editor and one by Dr. Meldrum. If the information derivable from these two sources had been carefully welded into one consecutive history, the description of the tables could have been followed more easily, and the processes employed in the reductions have been more readily apprehended.

The general arrangement does not call for any special remark. All who have been engaged in similar work know the amount of labour involved, and the care that has to be exercised. We notice what we think is a very praiseworthy feature, a determined effort to maintain a uniformity of sensitiveness on the photographic record. A difference of one m.m. in the

<sup>1</sup> "Mauritius Magnetical Reductions." Edited by T. F. Claxton, F.R.A.S. Being a discussion of the results obtained from the self-recording magnetometers from 1875 to 1890, under the direction of C. Meldrum, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.

scale reading is intended to represent a scale value of '0005 millimetre-milligramme. This is a convenient value, sufficiently sensitive to exhibit changes for ordinary magnetic disturbances, but yet not so sensitive as to send the spot of light off the paper even in a violent magnetic storm. But Dr. Meldrum reports that it is impossible in spite of every precaution to keep this value of the coefficient constant. The length of time elapsed between the cleaning of the knife edge and the agate plane, the temperature, the change of level of the magnet due to secular decrease in the value of the vertical force, all operate as disturbing causes, necessitating continual examination and readjustment. Tables of the scale coefficient employed are given. The horizontal force magnet shows as usual the larger variation.

Mr. Claxton gives in a tabular form the more trustworthy determinations of declination and dip that have been made on the island of Mauritius since 1750. Lacaille gave 52° 55' for inclination in 1761, and in 1896 this angle had increased to 54° 32'. The earliest determination of declination gave 16° 30' W. in 1753, it now reads 9° 49'; but the director points out, which indeed is sufficiently obvious, that there are large discrepancies among the observations arising probably from the use of indifferent instruments and the effect of local magnetic attraction, varying at the different spots at which the several determinations have been made. For these reasons, no attempt has been made to discuss the secular variation of any of the magnetic elements.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—In a congregation held on June 13 the Curators of the University Chest were authorised to expend a sum not exceeding 10,000*l.* in the erection of a pathological laboratory on ground adjoining the University Museum, and also to pay the sum of 250*l.* a year for five years for the equipment and maintenance of this laboratory from the date at which it shall be brought into use. An anonymous donor, a member of the University, has already offered the sum of 5000*l.* towards the erection of this laboratory, provided that it be commenced before January 1, 1901.

The above decrees were passed by Convocation on June 20, when also the twenty-fourth annual report of the visitors of the University Observatory was presented. In consequence of this report, the Curators of the University Chest will be asked to expend a sum not exceeding 500*l.* in the reconstruction of the western dome of the observatory.

It is proposed to adapt the upper floor of the Ashmolean Museum for the purposes of instruction in geology.

CAMBRIDGE.—At St. John's College the following awards in Natural Science were made on June 19:—

Foundation Scholarships continued or increased: Rudge, Yapp, Howard, Brown, Harnett, Lewton-Brain, O. May, Adams, Fletcher, Harding, Browning, Gregory, Wakely, Williams, Walker.

Exhibitions: Wyeth, Ticehurst, J. H. Field, King, Paton. Hutchinson Studentship for research (botany and zoology): G. S. West.

Research Prize (physics): Vincent.

Herschel Prize (astronomy): Eckhardt.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Mr. G. Birtwistle, who was bracketed Senior Wrangler this year with Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, has not only had much success in mathematics during his career, but has distinguished himself in other subjects. When at Owens College he devoted himself chiefly to chemistry, and in 1896 graduated B.Sc. with first-class honours in chemistry, obtaining also a Le Blanc medal and University scholarship. With regard to Mr. Paranjpye, the Allahabad correspondent of the *Times* states that he is a Maratha Brahmin, born twenty-three years ago in the village of Murdi, in the Ratnagiri district. First in the first division has been his invariable record since in 1891, at the age of fifteen, he headed the list at the matriculation examination for the whole of the Bombay Presidency. During his three years at Fergusson College he passed first in the first class at every examination. Fergusson College is an institution manned entirely by native professors, and Mr. Paranjpye, before going to England, pledged twenty years of his life to service in the college, where he will draw a salary not exceeding Rs.70 a month.