

of Retzius, who attended exclusively to the form of the skull and face. Race and language, or form of speech, on the other hand, he thinks, are associated by the closest and profoundest ties. The persistence of some of the races whose contours have been handed down to us by the artists of the ancient Egyptians and Persians may, he considers, at a low estimate, be placed at 8,000 years, since it is likely that they had endured at least as long previously to their being fixed in stone as they have done since. Everything, he thinks, serves to show the persistence and invariability of race. But if we pass from man regarded from an anthropological to an ethnographical point of view, his unchangeability is no longer perceptible. The form of the land, the climate, the Flora and Fauna by which he is surrounded, all exert a powerful influence upon him. The low grade of mental development on which the Australian stands, may easily be attributed to the singular dearth of useful plants and useful animals by which he is surrounded; and the Polynesian would undoubtedly have advanced to a higher level, if the plants and animals around him had been appropriate objects to stimulate and extend his intellectual faculties. The views here expressed, it will be seen, are curiously in accordance with those expressed by Buckle.

Dr. Müller estimates the total number of inhabitants on the earth at 1,342 millions, an estimate which differs from that of Behm by only five millions. He divides them into the following races:—1. Australian; 2. Japanese; 3. Malays; 4. Ballaks; 5. African Negroes; 6. Central Africans; 7. Hottentots; 8. Caffres; 9. Americans; 10. Northern Asiatics; 11. South Asiatics; 12. High Asiatics; 13. Europeans.

A general view of the ethnology and language of each of these is given, with details of those subdivisions that were encountered by the *Novara* in her voyage. Some of these are excellently drawn up, and contain much original and interesting matter. To take one as a specimen—the Chinese.

These he regards as representing the highest type to which the Mongolian type can attain, and standing to the yellow races in the position that the Greeks of old did, and the Germans, French, and English of the present day, do to the nations of Europe.

The physical features of the country and the characters of the climate are lightly sketched. Their Fauna and Flora are stated to be richer in useful animals and plants than any other region of the earth. Their clothing, dwelling, food, amusements, and arms are then described. The character of the modern Chinese is hit off in a few happy touches. The basis of his character is rest. Hence his condition of stagnation. His knowledge leads always to the same results; the present is still the best, and for the ideal, and the improvement and advance of the future, be it never so golden, he has no aspirations. The ceremonies of marriage and the occupations of daily life are detailed. The children are stated to be well educated, and it is noticeable that in the better families even the girls are taught general literature, music, and painting. Their trade, religion, and, finally, their language, are considered. The same plan is pursued with the other divisions, and the reader is presented with a very entertaining, though highly condensed, account of the principal types of mankind.

## OUR BOOK SHELF

*Alpine Flowers for English Gardens.* By W. Robinson, F.L.S. (London: J. Murray, 1870.)

THE author of "The Parks, Promenades, and Gardens of Paris," presents us here with a work which will be of great value to every lover of gardening. Although the formal and unsightly monstrosities of Loudon's "Landscape and Suburban Gardener" are now happily out of date, there is probably no department of landscape gardening in which a cruder and more artificial taste is still displayed than in the construction of rock-work. Not only is the prevalent style of rockery faulty from an æsthetic point of view, but, as Mr. Robinson shows, it is eminently unfitted for the growth of Alpine plants, which, even when their stems reach only a few inches above the ground, strike their roots feet, and even yards, into the soil with which the crevices in the rock are filled, in order to enable them to withstand the sudden droughts to which they are subject. Messrs. Backhouse, of York, have shown how, by careful attention to the conditions under which plants thrive in their native habitats, many ferns and flowering plants which are usually seen only in green-houses, can be successfully grown on out-of-door rockeries; and if the directions given by Mr. Robinson are carefully followed, any professional gardener or private gentleman, with the appliances ordinarily found in a moderately-sized garden, will be able to produce results which will astonish his friends and neighbours. The descriptive list of Alpine flowers, with the soil and treatment suited to each, is complete and valuable; some of the illustrations are pretty, others are on too small a scale to be effective.

*Systematisches Verzeichniss der in Deutschland lebenden Binnen-Mollusken, zusammengestellt, von Carl Kreglinger.* 8vo. (Wiesbaden, 1870.)

A BOOK of 403 pages, and merely a list of the inland (or land and freshwater) Mollusca of Germany, without any description or figure. Nearly one-half of this extensive compilation is taken up with useless synonyms of the species. Among the chaff there is some good grain in the nature of geographical and geological distribution. The author does not seem to be a species-maker; although in some cases he attaches, in my opinion, too much importance to slight and local differences. However, there is unfortunately no court of appeal. He evidently has not consulted all the works which he cites; or he would not have adopted Dr. J. E. Gray's specific name of *striatula* for the *Zonites radiatulus* of Alder, the former having described or rather indicated the species as "*Helix Zonites striatula*," and thus contravened the established rules of nomenclature. Nor do we find any reference to works which were published last year before the date of his preface, for instance, the concluding volume of "British Conchology." Herr Kreglinger enumerates 347 species as inhabiting Germany—a wide range, extending from Schleswig-Holstein to Dalmatia (a distance of between 800 and 900 miles), and comprising every variety of situation and soil, mountain, forest, pasture, woodland, lake, river, marsh, and the sea-coast. Indeed, in the last respect, he has "travelled out of the record" by adding some unquestionably marine species belonging to the genera *Melampus* and *Truncatella*. The number of British inland species is 125. Of *Clausilia* we have 4 only, while Germany boasts of 54; of *Vitrina* and its allies we possess but 1 out of 9, of *Neritina* 1 out of 5, and of *Hydrobia* (or *Paludinella*) 1 out of 18; the genera *Zospeum* and *Lithoglyphus*, which are peculiar to South Germany, and the family of *Melania* are utter strangers to our country. It is to be regretted that the author has without inquiry followed L. Pfeiffer in recognising such genera as *Azecca* and *Ferussacia*. Those few workers, to whom the high price of 20s. may not be an object, will be glad to have this *catalogue raisonnée* in their libraries.

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