though he believes that its existence requires to be proved. A question of the kind must be decided by "expert anthropologists," for "archæology has its own place, and should recognise its own limitations; it can prove connections of culture, but not identities of race." We can only hope that the archæologists who hold different views from those of Mr. Randall-Maciver will take these observations to heart and turn from the error of their ways. It is, we must confess, a little disconcerting to find such a strictly scientific authority as Mr. Randall-Maciver reduced to suggesting that "it is well worth considering whether the pre-dynastic race of Egypt is not in the main a blending in various proportions of Semite and Negro." It is much to be hoped that his promised work on the whole subject will clear up some of its difficulties, but it seems doubtful, judging by the work of Mr. Randall-Maciver and Prof. Sergi, whether the archæologist will obtain much useful help from the craniologist.

The New Basis of Geography. A Manual for the Preparation of the Teacher. By Jacques W. Redway. Pp. xvi+226. (New York: The Macmillan Company. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1901.) Price 4s. 6d. net.

NOT that the basis is really "new," for the author, who is perhaps the most successful writer of geographical school-books in the English tongue, knows a great deal better. In his preface he says in effect that the novelty of his basis is only apparent to the ignorance of the average teachers, and the newer they find it the more shame to them. "This book," he explains, "is intended to set forth in an elementary manner the relations between human activities and geographic environment." It does so very well. The style is facile and free, permeated by an air of genial familiarity with the subject, and with the class of reader appealed to. There is a tendency to semi-epigrammatic sentences, shattered fragments of which will be recognisable in the breccia of the pupil-teacher's examination papers for a generation to come:—"War has its horrors, but it is less horrible than ignorance." "Accuracy is the one virtue that cannot possibly belong to a flat map." "It is not necessary to worry about the plane of the ecliptic."

The last proposition will probably be popular, if one may say so without disrespect to other "imaginary lines."

Mr. Redway has produced a thoroughly practical, well-informed and thoughtful book; one which can not only be read with pleasure by the teacher in the study, but practised with profit in the school. True, it does not accord with any of the "codes" in this country, but the principles it lays down will be found perfectly amenable to any pattern of red-tape harness. Stress is laid on the superiority of the method of teaching by letting the pupil discover his own facts—"The reading method might fit a young man to be a private secretary; the discovery method fits him to be the employer of private secretaries."

References to books are given as well as hints on method, and Mr. Redway is generous in commending the works of other writers. We feel sure that his strongly practical exposition of the nature and value of geographical principles will do more to promote sound geographical education than any amount of learned advocacy by theorists can ever accomplish.

Expertises et Arbitrages. By F. Rigaud. Pp. 177. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars. Masson and Co., 1901.)

IN this volume, which belongs to the Encyclopédie scientifique des Aide-Mémoire series, the author gives a *précis* of standard legal works on reports and arbitrations, and summarises the principles and laws which should be considered by arbitrators and experts more familiar with technical knowledge than law. From this practical point of view the book may prove of service.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Note on a Point of Chemical Nomenclature.

SENIER AND GOODWIN have, in a recent paper (*Journ. Chem. Soc.* vol. lxxix. p. 258), made use of the term "alphy" as a generic name for the aromatic radicles. The continued use of this term with the meaning attached to it by the above authors is one which may lead to some confusion. It is undoubtedly of advantage to be able to distinguish by special names fatty from aromatic radicles. With this end in view Bamberger proposed some time ago (*Berichte*, xxvii. 2583) "alphy" as a general term for aromatic radicles, such as phenyl, tolyl, &c. He derived this word from "alkyl-phenyl," and as it supplied a want it was speedily adopted by investigators and appeared in scientific papers and text-books. Vorländer in 1899 (*Jour. für praktische Chemie*, lix. 247) drew attention to the possibility of error centred in the new name. As he remarked, every student of chemistry on hearing the word "alphy" for the first time would think, not of an aromatic compound, but of one belonging to the fatty or aliphatic division. He then pointed out that *alphy* was, on the contrary, a thoroughly suitable name for a monovalent hydrocarbon radicle of the fatty series, and that an aromatic radicle might be designated by "*arryl*."

For monovalent fatty radicles we have the name "*alkyl*" suggested years ago by J. Wislicenus and derived from "alcohol." There is no reason for superseding that term, but its meaning might with advantage be enlarged. Vorländer's proposal was that *all* monovalent hydrocarbon radicles, whether fatty or aromatic, should be called "*alkyl*" groups, this term being in opposition to "*acyl*" used by Liebermann (*Berichte*, xxi. 3372) for acid-radicles. We may then subdivide the alkyl group into fatty and aromatic divisions, giving each a special name.

The following scheme sets forth the proposed nomenclature:—

I. *Alkyl*. All monovalent hydrocarbon radicles.

(a) *Alphy*. Aliphatic radicles (CH_3 , C_2H_5 , &c.)

(b) *Arryl*. Aromatic radicles (C_6H_5 , &c.)

(c) *Alpharryl*. Aromatic radicles possessed of a fatty character (benzyl, &c.)

II. *Acyl*. Acid radicles in general (CH_3CO , $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{CO}$).

Bamberger, the proposer of the term "alphy" for aromatic radicles, acknowledged the ambiguity and adopted Vorländer's proposal (*Lieb. Ann.* cccv. 289). One modification he suggested, and this was the change from "*arryl*" to "*aryl*." Since that time he has used in all his work the term "*aryl*" where he previously used "*alphy*." This is a custom which now generally obtains in Germany, and "*alphy*" in its original sense has almost altogether disappeared from papers and text-books. Should now the term "*alphy*" be used in England for an aromatic radicle, it will creep again into such reference periodicals as the *Centralblatt* and there occur side by side with "*alphy*" and "*aryl*" in their later meanings, as has already been the case, and this will lead to manifest lack of clearness and confusion. Some English chemists use "*aryl*" for an aromatic radicle (*cf.* Sudborough, on acetylation of arylamines, *Proc. Chem. Soc.* xvii. p. 45). It would therefore be of great advantage to agree on a uniform use of these different terms.

A. T. DE M.

Folklore about Stonehenge.

I REMEMBER, when I was a child, between seventy and eighty years ago, being told that the stones could be successfully counted only by laying a loaf of bread beside each. To mark each stone by something to prevent one being missed or counted twice over seems natural; but why a loaf of bread? Is this an idea surviving from the "*cultus lapidum*" referred to in your review of "Carnac and Stonehenge" in NATURE of September 12? I think it probable that I had this from a nursery-maid who came from Mere in Wiltshire, and who had a taste for the marvellous.

O. FISHER.

Harlton, Cambridge, October 19.