work has hitherto given us so effective a series of coloured petrographic illustrations. We are thus not quite sure about the description of the pyroxene-andesite from Bohemia on plate v., because the drawing so closely resembles the rock of Tichlowitz, with its brown hornblende in the groundmass, its monoclinic pyroxene, and its patches of zeolites as the only pale constituents. Again and again we could name the locality of the rock selected from the accurate details of the illustration; and when we turn to the descriptive text, we find very little room for criticism.

G. A. J. C.

Inflammation. An Introduction to the Study of Pathology. Being the reprint (revised and enlarged) of an article in Prof. Allbutt's "System of Medicine." By Prof. J. George Adami. Pp. xvi+240. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1907.) Price 5s. net.

REPRINTS in book form of articles appearing in larger volumes are not always desirable, but in the present instance so much has been added to the matter as virtually to constitute a new work. We congratulate Prof. Adami heartily on the successful issue of an arduous task; no one knows how difficult until he attempts to write on inflammation. The subject of inflammation, forming, as it does, the fundamental basis of pathology, and it might be said also of the science and practice of medicine, is beset with difficulties. The literature on it is voluminous and bewildering, and pathologists owe a debt of gratitude to Prof. Adami for having the courage to attack it. The matter is divided into sections; the first gives a general survey of the inflammatory process, the second deals with the various factors of the process—the part played by the leucocytes, the exudate, the blood-vessels, the nervous system, cells of the part, and the temperature changes; the third section deals with general considerations, and includes a chapter on the principles of treatment of the inflammatory state. Every statement made is based on published work, to which the reference is appended (and the book therefore forms a valuable bibliography on the subject of inflammation), and critical additions and summaries are liberally interspersed. The book is well and sufficiently illustrated, and no student of pathology can do without it.

R. T. HEWLETT.

Notes on Maritime Meteorology. By Commander M. W. Campbell Hepworth, C.B. Pp. viii+90; 7 plates. (London: George Philip and Son, Ltd., 1907.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

THIS work consists of papers contributed to societies and institutions between 1883 and 1900, compiled while the author was on active service afloat. Two of them, occupying nearly half the book, are of a more general nature than the rest, and deal with meteorology as a factor in naval warfare and with the value of meteorological observations at sea. The author contends that, given two opposing fleets equal in all respects, "the victory in a series of engagements shall be to the fleet in the direction of whose movements meteorology shall have given the greatest aid," and some striking instances are cited of the value of weather knowledge. The other papers are of a more special character, and relate chiefly to the navigation of the Indian and Pacific oceans. Taken in connection with the useful charts dealing with the marine meteorology of those oceans published by the Admiralty and the Meteorological Office, the results of investigations by so experienced a seaman and so keen an observer as the author of the work in question will be of great interest and value to those now afloat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Mu'attos.

MR. H. G. WELLS, in his interesting book "The Future in America" (1906), tells (pp. 269-270) a story at second-hand which apparently, however, he accepts as accurate in perfect good faith. I transcribe the facts as they were given to him:—

"A few years ago a young fellow came to Boston from New Orleans. Looked all right. Dark—but he explained that by an Italian grandmother. Touch of French in him too. Popular. Well, he made advances to a Boston girl—good family. Gave a fairly straight account of himself. Married."

The offspring of the marriage was a son:—

"Black as your hat. Absolutely negroid. Projecting jaw, thick lips, frizzy hair, flat nose—everything."

In this case Mr. Wells observes:—"The taint in the blood surges up so powerfully as to blacken the child at birth beyond even the habit of the pure-blooded negro."

This is, at any rate, ultra-Mendelian. Such a story would hardly be told and repeated unless it corresponded to popular belief. What one would like to have is precise evidence that such cases actually occur. If verifiable, it would be of great importance both on scientific and political grounds. I find, however, nothing resembling it in such authorities as I am able to consult. No such case is mentioned by either Darwin or Delage, though neither would have been likely to pass over such a striking instance of reversion had it been known to him. Sir William Lawrence, in his "Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, and the Natural History of Man" (1822), a book still worth consulting, has industriously collected (pp. 472-484) all the facts available at the time about mulattos, but has no instance of the kind.

The problem involved is thus stated by Galton ("Natural Inheritance," p. 13):—"A solitary peculiarity that blended freely with the characteristics of the parent stock, would disappear in hereditary transmission." He then discusses the case of a European mating in a black population:—"If the whiteness refused to blend with the blackness, some of the offspring of the white man would be wholly white and the rest wholly black. The same event would occur in the grandchildren, mostly, but not exclusively, in the children of the white offspring, and so on in subsequent generations. Therefore, unless the white stock became wholly extinct, some undiluted specimens of it would make their appearance during an indefinite time, giving it repeated chances of holding its own in the struggle for existence." *Mutatis mutandis*, the same law would hold for a black mating in a white population.

Lawrence quotes a single case (p. 279) in which a refusal to blend certainly existed:—"A negress had twins by an Englishman: one was perfectly black, with short, woolly curled hair; the other was light, with long hair." He also points out that in "mixed breeds" "children may be seen like their grandsires, and unlike the father and mother," a fact observed by Lucretius.

"Fit quoque, ut interdum similes existere avorum Possint, et referant proavorum sæpe figuras."

On the other hand, according to Lawrence, there was a legal process in the Spanish colonies of South America by which a mulatto could claim a declaration that he was, at any rate politically, free from any taint of black blood. Of Quinterons, who were one-sixteenth black, he says:—"It is not credible that any trace of mixed origin can remain in this case," and even of Tercerons, who were one-quarter black, "in colour and habit of body they cannot be distinguished from their European progenitors." He says (p. 274) that Jamaica Quadroons "are not to be distinguished from whites." But "there is still a contamination of dark blood, although no longer visible. It is said to betray itself sometimes in a relic of the peculiar strong smell of the great-grandmother." If these statements can be relied upon, Galton's hypothetical law does not appear