

any evidence summarised? There is very little in the book showing that any progress has been made in the interpretation of Neolithic monuments, the epithet "sepulchral" being applied to the archæological dead wall in that direction. The notion that the religion of the monument-builders is to be interpreted by existing savage life seems to be extremely fallacious, where evidence of a high culture is hypothetically reconciled with the lowest savagery (pp. 64, 65).

There is a body of other evidence of Neolithic culture which in this book is formally ignored, but just in the connection where one would expect a brief summary of that evidence, one finds the strongest expression, and by far the weakest argument, to be found in the book. "Popular belief generally attributes the megaliths to the Druids, but the connection is absolutely unsupported by evidence, and the idea is of recent (eighteenth century) origin" (footnote, p. 99). That there was no connection between the Druids and the megaliths is absolutely unsupported by evidence. The idea is certainly older than the eighteenth century, but it is to be admitted that the best evidence in point is as recent as the best on the classification of primeval skulls, in as bewildering an abundance as the latter is scarce, much less problematical, accessible to every archæologist, and so well appreciated when it can be understood that the blank, fruitless negotiations with which Mrs. Quiggin disposes of the subject materially assist, by demonstrating their own futility, in securing for the new evidence a fair examination.

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*Katalog der palæarktischen Hemipteren (Heteroptera, Homoptera—Auchenorrhyncha und Psylloideae).* By B. Oshanin. Pp. xvi+187. (Berlin: Friedländer und Sohn.) Price 12 marks.

THIS useful list of Palæarctic Hemiptera and Homoptera is practically a fifth edition of Dr. Puton's "Catalogue des Hémiptères de la Faune Paléarctique," the fourth edition of which was published in 1899. The failing health and subsequent blindness of the French author prevented him from continuing the study of these insects, and M. Oshanin, therefore, has done good service by bringing the catalogue up to date. He takes a wider view of the Palæarctic region than Puton, including Wallace's Mandchurian sub-region, that is, Japan and the greater part of China. Altogether, 5476 species are enumerated under fifty-five families and 1005 genera, and the classification adopted is that of O. M. Reuter. The year of publication of each of the genera and species, with the habitat, is given, as was done by Puton, and an alphabetical list of the species and varieties is to be found on pp. 131-177. The recently published "Verzeichnis der palæarktischen Hemipteren mit besonderer Berücksichtigung ihrer Verteilung im russischen Reiche," by the same author, gives a full reference to the works in which the species were described.

NO. 2254, VOL. 90]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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The Influence of Icebergs on the Temperature of the Sea.

IN the early 'seventies of last century I took considerable interest in oceanic circulation. Dr. Carpenter had previously shown that when the warm water moves from the equator towards the poles and he showed that when this current meets with icebergs they have a cooling effect and produce downward currents; this he illustrated by placing some ice at one end of a tank of sea water, when a downward current was produced under the ice, which flowed away along the bottom of the tank towards the other end, where it rose and flowed back along the surface towards the ice. In 1873 I pointed out that Dr. Carpenter's description of the two currents did not give a full statement of what was taking place; that his surface current was not at the surface, but only near it, and that above it was another formed of a mixture of sea water and the fresh water of the melted ice, which had a lower specific gravity, though colder, than the sea water. This cold water flowed away from the ice over the surface of the warmer water. That the ice-cooled sea water was lighter than the sea water was also shown by dividing the experimental tank into two parts by means of a movable vertical partition. The water in one half was cooled by means of ice in varying amounts, and on removing the partition the cold water always flowed over the hot.

These are all laboratory experiments, and though they help us to understand something of what is taking place while ice is melting in sea water, yet they are not likely to contain all the conditions existing in nature. For this reason the recent investigations of Prof. Barnes on the rise of temperature near icebergs, found by him by means of his microthermograph, are most interesting, though I must admit very puzzling. In his Royal Institution discourse (NATURE, June 20, 1912) he gives a diagram of the temperature gradient of the sea water when approaching an iceberg. In this case, when at a distance of a little more than two miles from the berg, the temperature was rising, and rose 0.6 of a degree C. by the time the observing vessel had approached to within a mile of the berg. From this point the temperature began to fall, and at half a mile from the berg it had fallen 2.3°. On passing beyond the berg the temperature began to rise, and at a distance of about six miles it had risen about 1.7°, after which it began to fall.

In the very interesting and full diagram, showing the temperatures all round an iceberg, given by Prof. Barnes in NATURE of December 12, 1912, the temperature is shown to be rising on all sides as the berg is approached. Beginning to rise at a distance from it of five miles, it goes on rising right up to the berg, rising from 4.2° to 5.2° C. If these two diagrams represent something typical, why this difference in the two cases? In the first a rise of temperature stopping within a mile on one side and six miles on the other, and then a steady fall in temperature on both sides up to within half a mile of the berg, which was as near as it was approached; and in the other case a steady rise all round right up to