

occurring in the eastern part of the State, and suggested that they offer a promising field to our mining engineers for experiments in concentrating on a large scale so as to avoid the necessity of running so much barren material through the mills.

The Society then adjourned to meet again in February.

EUGENE A. SMITH,
Secretary.

THE 269TH MEETING OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 21.

MR. GEO. R. STETSON, in his paper upon 'The Climacteric of the Negro Problem,' discussed the causes which have brought about the estrangement of the races; contending that race discrimination upon the part of the whites is frequently justified by necessity; a practice of which the negro cannot justly complain, as in every instance where he has obtained governmental control—in the West Indies, in Liberia and elsewhere—white citizenship is absolutely proscribed.

The progress in the economic condition of the negro is without intention sentimentally exaggerated; while numbering 12 per cent. of the population, the value of his taxable property is but 0.39 of one per cent. of our total wealth. The negro does not suffer from the lack of opportunity, but for want of the means and knowledge to make the opportunity his own. While his criminal record is bad, if we take into consideration his opportunities and moral status, our own record of degeneracy is worse, and the White Problem is quite as serious as the Negro Problem.

Mr. Stetson attributed the present climacteric to the default on our part, and especially of those more closely associated with him, in ignoring the ethical relations of the two races and neglecting personal interest in the negro's moral, industrial and general training. "Our chief and fatal error lies in not practically reorganizing in our educational systems his peculiar racial needs and differences;" an error which has been fatal to his social progress, and highly inimical and dangerous to the collective interests of both races.

The primary and greatest need of the negro and forty-one per cent. of our white population is practical instruction in agriculture in the elementary school, a system already revived in France, Germany, Russia and Ireland.

The abandonment of secondary education at the public expense was advocated upon the ground of its inaccessibility to the great majority of both races, and especially to the negro, the effect of such education upon races of inferior development and upon inferior classes of the higher races being to create a prejudice against manual labor. Incidentally, Mr. Stetson advocated positive religious instruction in the elementary school, and the establishment of the kindergarten as a necessary reënforcement of our school systems in the presence of an environment seething with the most virulent moral pest germs.

Mr. O. F. Cook, professor of natural science in Liberia College, Monrovia, read a paper on 'Traits of Native African Character,' in which he described the negro as he exists to-day in this negro republic, and gave the difference in character between them and those of the United States. His remarks showed a close and true study of these people, and how they had succeeded, notwithstanding the current belief in this country to the contrary. In Liberia and among the native population generally they respected the judgment and ability of the white man.

J. H. McCORMICK,
General Secretary.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

At the meeting of December 22, 1897, Mr. W. Lingdren, of the United States Geological Survey, read a paper on 'The Canyons of the Salmon and Snake Rivers, Idaho.' The little known region between Idaho and Oregon where the Snake River and its mighty tributary, the Salmon, join is one of exceptional interest. In this vicinity lies the eastern margin of the great Columbia lava-fields, the shore line, so to speak, where the molten flows were arrested by the mountain ranges of Idaho. Near Weiser, Snake River leaves the broad open valley occupying such a large part of southern Idaho, turns northward and flows across the great lava