Memories of the Picts by D. MacRitchie

Review by: J. R.

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spirit and it will be very angry if the beast is slain" (p. 183). The forest owl has demoniacal characters, and its claws are hung round the necks of children as a charm. The red-hump blackbird is the guardian of love, and whoever molests them will never be fancied by any girl. The forest birds are the poultry of the spirits and if molested something awful will happen. The rock-snake cannot abide an *enceinte* woman, but attacks her at once. Spirits have a like repugnance, "so that a Sookia, or medicine-man, while communicating with spirits or preparing incantations, must on no account see a woman in such a condition, the inference being that this snake is connected with spirits" (p. 225 *seq.*).

Rheumatism is caused by thorns which evil spirits have stuck in the flesh and these are pulled out by the sorcerer (p. 240). W. CROOKE.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE MUSICAL BOW. A CHAPTER IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF STRINGED INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC. By Henry Balfour, M.A. Curator of the Pitt-Rivers Museum, University of Oxford. Oxford Clarendon Press, 1899. Price, 4s. 6d. 8vo. 87 pp. 61 illustrations.

This is the first part of a monograph, and is concerned with the primitive types; the second part, which is not yet published, will deal with more highly developed instruments. The writer shows how the first stringed instrument was the bow with its twanging string, and how gradually additions and improvements were made, by means of which the original weapon was transformed into an instrument with no other function than to make sweet music. The numerous cuts which illustrate the text, make the nature of the transformation abundantly clear, and the localities in which the musical bow is actually in use, or in which it is recorded as a legendary prototype, are carefully noted with numerous references to the literature of the subject. A coloured map at the end exhibits at a glance the distribution of these interesting objects, showing their occurrence in Africa, India, the Asiatic Islands, Melanesia and Polynesia, and Central and South America. It is unnecessary to point out the importance of studies of this kind which retrace the phylogenetic development of instruments of art or industry, and enforce the lesson that almost everything we use in daily life is the product of an infinitely slow growth. The Pitt-Rivers Museum is a school which exists for this purpose; and its accomplished curator, by publishing in an attractive literary form any of the admirable series under his control, is fulfilling in the best possible manner the desires of the founder and of all students of ethnographical science. O. M. D.

MEMORIES OF THE PICTS. By D. MacRitchie. Reprinted from the *Scottish Antiquary*, January, 1900. (Presented by the Author.)

The writer insists on what may be termed the fairy aspect of the Pechts, especially their living underground in rooms so small that the occupants must have been men of very small stature. So he argues partly on the ground of the ascertained dimensions of some of those rooms and partly also on the statements of Thomas Tulloch, who appears to have been governor of Orkney in 1422-48, under the Scandinavian monarch Eric VII. of Denmark. He cites other authorities also, and we feel far from certain that the Pictish underground dwellings did not have something to do with Gildas' picture when he wrote "*... emergunt certatim de curicis, quibus sunt trans Cichicam vallem vecti, quasi in alto Titane incalescentique caumate de arcissimis foraminum cavernulis fusci vermiculorum cunei, tetri Scotorum Pictorumque greges*," etc.

This is not the first time that Mr. MacRitchie has touched on the Pechts; but we note with satisfaction that he has now dropped certain arguments which seemed to us, so far from helping him, to have been prejudicial to his position. J. R.

THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE NORTH-WESTERN SOLOMON ISLANDS. By R. Parkinson.

Herr R. Parkinson has an unique knowledge of several districts of Melanesia, and he has recently contributed a very valuable paper on the Ethnography of the North-Western Solomon Islands to the *Abhandl. u. Berichte d. K. Zool. u. Anthropol. Mus. zu. Dresden*, Bd. VII, 1899. In Buka there are two clans which take the name of their totems. These are the Fowl and the Frigate-bird; one clan must marry into the other. In North Bougainville the same obtains, but in South Bougainville and in the neighbouring islands there are a number of bird clans; here a member of a clan may marry a member of any other clan except that to which he or she belongs. In all cases the children belong to their mother's clan.

Interesting information is given about ceremonies in which masks are employed. The important *Rukruk* custom (sometimes also called *burri*) is described; it takes place in a tabued clearing in the bush, where there is a sacred hut; here the bull-roarer is whirled, and the women believe that the initiates (*matasesen*) have converse with the male and the female spirit (*ruk*).

The long hair of the initiates is cut off, but as a rule a long lock is left on the nape, the end of which is decorated with beads or a shell. After the ceremony the *matasesen* may choose a wife. Parkinson compares the Solomon Island *ruleruk* with the *dudduk* of the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain, where, however, the bull-roarer is unknown. Cannibalism is not so universally spread as is believed. Scarification occurs all over the district; it enhances personal attraction in both sexes. As Parkinson deals with music, houses, clothing, ornaments, money, utensils, weapons, canoes, fishing, etc., it will be apparent that this memoir is of considerable importance, especially when one remembers that the author has peculiar facilities for gaining trustworthy information.

A. C. H.

BEITRÄGE ZUR ANTHROPOLOGIE ELSSASS-LOTHRINGENS. Herausgegeben von Dr. G. Schwalk, Professor der Anatomie an der Universität Strassburg. ERSTES HEFT. *Die Schädelformen der Elsässischen Bevölkerung in Alter und Neuer Zeit.* Von Dr. Edmund Blind. ZWEITES HEFT. *Die Körpergrösse der Wehrpflichtigen des Reichslandes Elsass-Lothringen.* Von Dr. S. Brandt.

This work, of which the first two instalments are now available, will comprise a complete inquiry into the physical characteristics of the inhabitants of the German frontier provinces. Such a work comparable to that done by Ammon and Ecker in the Rhine Provinces, by Ranke in Bavaria, and by Topinard, Collignon, and many others in France, is of the utmost value to the anthropologist. Elsass-Lothringen having been from time immemorial one of the great battle grounds of Europe, it is surprising that the anthropological landmarks should remain as distinct as they do.

In the first part Dr. Blind gives a detailed account of some 700 skulls, mostly dating from the 14th-16th centuries, obtained from various ossuaries in Elsass. He concludes that in the main they indicate that at this period a brachycephalic, leptorhine, and megaseme population was spread out over the Vosges, mixed here and there with long-skulled elements coming from across the Rhine valley. The skulls of this people closely resemble, if indeed they are not identical with, those of Celts from Auvergne described by Broca, and those of the broad band of brachycephalous