NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. SECTION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY.

THE regular meeting of the section was held January 26, in conjunction with the American Ethnological Association, Professor Thorndike presiding. The first paper was presented by Dr. Maurice Fishberg, 'The Ancient Semites and the Modern Jews.' The somatic characteristics of the ancient and the modern Semites were discussed in detail, the purest representatives of the latter being the Arabian Bedouins. Their anthropological type is distinctly African. The bas-reliefs of the ancient Semites, as represented on the Assyrian and Egyptian monuments, are of the same type. The modern Jews are, on the other hand, a distinctly Asiatic type physically; they are brachycephalic—cephalic index 82 with less than five per cent. of heads having an index of 75 or less. Their head form shows very little variability, but one important feature is that in countries where the non-Jewish population is round-headed the Jews are also round-headed. In Caucasia their cephalic index is 87; in eastern Europe, where the cephalic index of the non-Jews ranges between 80 and 84, that of the Jews is about the same. In Africa, among the long-headed Gentile population, the Jews are also dolichocephalic. The same is observed to be the case with stature. The Jews are taller in countries where the general population is tall. The type of the Jew is dark, but 12 per cent. of pure-blood types, having fair hair and blue eyes, are to be found. The nose of the modern Jew is not as frequently hooked as is generally supposed. Statistics show that only 12 per cent. are of this variety. The only characteristic which often betrays a Jew is the 'Ghetto eye.' But such Jews who have lived outside of the pale of the Ghetto for a few generations do not present this phenomenon. Physically there are two types of Jews—one derived from Asia, commonly called *Ashkenasim*, and constituting more than 90 per cent. of the modern Jewry. It has no relation at all with the second type, of African origin, commonly referred to as *Sephardim*. These, constituting less than 10 per cent. of the Jews, alone are more or

less related to the ancient Semites, although they have not everywhere preserved themselves as pure as in Africa. Besides these there are to be discerned other subtypes, in which Teutonic, Slavonic and Mongolian blood appears most prominent. From the standpoint of physical anthropology, the view that all the modern Jews are descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, can not be seriously considered. The only thing which binds the modern Jews together is their religion. In blood there is no more relation between the Jews than there is between the people who profess the protestant, methodist or unitarian religion.

Mr. H. H. St. Clair, 2d, then read a paper, 'Investigations among the Comanche and Ute Indians.' The investigations were made during the summer of 1902 upon the Comanches on the Kiowa-Comanche Reservation, Oklahoma, and the Utes of the Uintah Reservation, Utah. Both tribes belong to the great Shoshonean family. These tribes have a very loose social organization and no elaborate religious ceremonial. There are no calendar-records nor any traces of heraldry among the Comanches. The designs painted on rawhide bags or woven in beads have no meaning as with the Shoshones, but are merely ornamental, and there is lack of the symbolic conversationalism found among such people as the Arapahoes and Sioux. In their stories the coyote figures as the most frequent character representing the fool and schemer. There are striking similarities between the Shoshone and Nahuatl languages of Mexico, each using the same grammatical processes in its pronoun, noun, preposition and verb, and the order of words and structure of the sentence being practically the same in both.

JAMES E. LOUGH,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THERMODYNAMICS OF HEAT-ENGINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In undertaking to express to you, and through your columns to Dr. Thurston, my appreciation of his very generous review of my 'Thermodynamics of Heat-engines,' will you allow me to call at-