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90. A Portable Stature Meter.

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Physical Anthropology : Method.

Gray.

A Portable Stature Meter. By J. Gray.**90**

Travellers who propose to make measurements of the races they come in contact with have often felt the want of a stature meter which would be at once light, compact, and easily made ready for use. A rod graduated throughout its length and fitted together with two or three fishing-rod joints does not comply very well with the above conditions. It occurred to me that the lazy-tongs linkage might be adapted for this purpose, and the illustration shows a stature meter which I have designed on this principle, and which has been made by Home and Rowland, Troughton Road, Charlton, Kent. The instrument weighs about 1 lb., when made of magnalium, and when folded up may be carried in an overcoat pocket. The readings are taken by means of a steel tape graduated to mm., which is connected to the bottom transverse bar, passes up through the middle of the linkage, over a pulley on the top bar, then down to the reading point, which is fixed at a convenient height for the eye of the observer.

The length of the tape between the top guide pulley and the reading point must evidently remain constant when the linkage expands and contracts. To ensure this, the tape passes from the top pulley along the adjacent link, round a second guide pulley at its lower end, and similarly in a zig-zag manner along other links till the reading point is reached. Finally the tape is wound on to a spring drum.

The instrument may be used for measuring other heights than stature; for example, the height of the acromion, of the trochanter, or of the tip of the finger. It is preferably fitted with a level, to ensure the vertical position.

J. GRAY.

REVIEWS.**America : Mexico.**

Starr.

In Indian Mexico : A Narrative of Travel and Labor. By Frederick Starr. Chicago, 1908. Pp. xi + 425. 24 x 16 cm.

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Professor Starr begins his preface by the following remark: "Why another travel book on Mexico? Few countries have been so frequently written up by the traveller. Many books, good, bad, and indifferent, but chiefly bad, have been perpetrated." Professor Starr has no need to plead as an excuse for publication that "Indian Mexico is practically unknown," for the book is sufficiently interesting even to those who are not especially concerned with the study of native races. Indeed, Mexico