yet enough have been dug up to make certain the fact that some thousands of years before the Christian era, savage Neolithic tribes shared the still virgin forests with the aurochs, the bear and the lynx, and that they slowly carried forward the evolution of man in Central Germany. When the use of these instruments began and when it stopped is not known, but in July, 1902, while digging up the earth at the Porta Sinistra of the Saalburg, two small smooth-stone implements were found in the same layer with Roman remains, and this is a noteworthy piece of evidence that the use of smooth-stone implements *may* have continued until the beginning of the Christian era.

A few chipped rough-stone arrow-heads have also been found in Hesse Nassau. The specimens look exactly like North American Indian arrow-heads. They are probably Paleoliths, but the evidence is still meager about the earliest peoples of Central Germany.

Notes and Comments.

TWO YEARS IN ARGENTINE AS CONSULTING ENGINEER OF NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS.*

BY ELMER LAWRENCE CORTHELL.

The lecture was introduced by a brief statement in reference to the selection of Mr. Corthell, by the United States Government, and recommended by it to the Argentine Government, to act as its Consulting Engineer for a definite period.

Mr. Corthell was a delegate of the Argentine Government at the International Navigation Congress, at Düsseldorf, last summer, and when called upon to respond for that Government, he opened his remarks by a brief comparison of some of the interesting features common to both countries. This comparison is given in the lecture, and in order to fully appreciate the location of Argentine, some of the most important geographical features.

The lecturer then makes an interesting comparison between the Mississippi River and the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries, in reference to the geologic and hydraulic causes which, in ancient times, changed the course and the volumes of both rivers, and, by great sedimentary deposits, made the under-water areas suitable for the habitation of man. Areas of drainage and volumes

* Synopsis of a lecture delivered in the Hall of the Y. M. C. A., Philadelphia, Friday, November 12, 1902.

of discharge, under ancient conditions and under present conditions, are briefly given.

The above features—geographic, topographic and hydrographic—are illustrated by colored charts. The more important ports on the great rivers—the Paraná and Uruguay—are mentioned, and some interesting features in reference to the velocity of currents, volumes of discharge, etc., are stated. The present and proposed depths in the two rivers and the commercial features are briefly given. The great Rio de la Plata is specially treated.

After giving the hydraulic conditions of Argentine, there is a brief description and illustrations of the Andes, and the effect of the mountainous condition of the country upon civilization is briefly described.

Having reviewed the physical conditions, a résumé of the history of Argentine is given, including a brief account of the aborigines in this and other parts of South America, with a very brief review of American ethnology. The struggles of the Colonies of Spain to become independent are described, and the influence exerted by the United States during the conflict. The three great heroes of American independence—Washington, Bolivar and San Martin—are compared, and the campaigns and patriotism of the great hero of Argentine, General San Martin, are treated at some length.

Following the history of Argentine, the present Argentine is described—its area, its climate, its productions, and, generally, its agricultural, industrial and commercial features; its telephones, telegraphs, railways, the cable lines which reach it, and, in fact, all conditions of interest.

Following the general description of Argentine is a description of the city of Buenos Ayres, its streets, buildings, water and sewerage works, its extensive port-works, and many details of interest. All of which are illustrated by lantern slides.

Following the general characteristics of the country and city of Buenos Ayres, there is given a brief résumé of the ocean commerce, which has done so much since the discovery of the country in developing its resources. Several important projects for giving additional facilities, both at Buenos Ayres and elsewhere, are described and illustrated.

During the descriptions above stated, there are given comparisons with other cities of the world, including those of the United States, as to population, mortality, growth and other features.

The National Government has recently completed a very important dry dock at one of the more southerly ports of the country, and this is described and illustrated.

The lecture closes by some lantern slides of interesting features of the city of Buenos Ayres, and a brief statement of the reasons which have prompted the lecturer to give this lecture in the United States.

The lecture will be published in full later on.

W. H. W.

GAS-ENGINE RESEARCH IN GERMANY.

The Institution of Civil Engineers publishes the following abstract of a report by Eugene Meyer issued in the *Zeitschrift des Vereines deutscher Ingenieure*: