



Vocabularies of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Languages by Franz Boas
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until a late period of advanced civilisation in Europe were they deemed unfit for religious spectacle." The work is profusely illustrated.

"On the Modification of Organisms." By David Syme. (Kegan Paul.) 8vo. pp. 164. The scope of the work is defined by the author at the commencement of the first chapter: "After a review of all that has been said for and against natural selection during the last thirty years, Dr. Wallace expresses himself, in his recent work on Darwinism, as having come to the conclusion that this principle 'is supreme to an extent that even Darwin himself hesitated to claim for it.' Notwithstanding the opinion of this high authority, I venture to think there is something to be said on the other side of the question, and I propose in the following pages to show that the acceptance of this theory is still beset with difficulties of a very formidable character. . . . (p. 15). We have seen that Darwin's language is wanting in precision, and his definitions and theories are variable and contradictory. In one place natural selection is the 'struggle for existence'; in another, the 'struggle for existence' is said to bear on 'natural selection'; in a third place he speaks of the 'struggle for existence and natural selection' as if they were independent principles. . . ." The titles of the chapters are: the province of natural selection; the effects of natural selection; the extermination of the unfit; sexual selection; the fertilisation of plants by insects; the causes of variability; the modifying agency.

"Vocabularies of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Languages." By Dr. Franz Boas. (Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc., vol. xxix.) 8vo. pp. 35. The vocabularies were collected by the author while studying the Indian tribes of British Columbia under an appointment of the Committee of the British Association.

"The Origin of Metallic Currency and Weight Standards." By William Ridgeway, M.A. (Cambridge, at the University Press, 1892.) 8vo. pp. 417. The work deals very fully with the origin of metallic currency, &c., under the following headings:—The ox and the talent in Homer; primitive systems of currency; the distribution of the ox and the distribution of gold; primæval trade routes; the art of weighing was first employed for gold; the gold unit everywhere the value of a cow; the weight systems of China and Further Asia; how were primitive weight units fixed? statement and criticism of the old doctrines; the systems of Egypt, Babylon, and Palestine; the Lydian and Persian systems; the Greek, Sicilian, Italian, and Roman systems. The author (p. 387) concludes as follows:—"It now simply remains to sum up the results of our enquiry. Starting with the Homeric poems, we found that although certain pieces of gold called *talents* were in circulation among the early Greeks, yet all values were still expressed in terms of cows. We then found that