

messengers to the neighboring rancheria, each bearing a string whereon is tied a number of knots. Every morning thereafter the invited Chief unties one of the knots, and when the last one is reached, men, women and children joyfully set forth for the dance.

Scarification and prolonged suction with the mouth are the staple methods of cure among their shamans or physicians, some of whom are women. In case of colds and rheumatism they apply California Balm of Gilead (*Picea grandis*) externally and internally. Stomachic affections are treated with a plaster of hot ashes and moist earth. The shaman's prerogative is that he must be paid in advance, usually fresh slain deer or so many yards of shell money; the patient's prerogative is that if he dies his friends may kill the shaman.

Their favorite dance is the acorn dance, in which the whole company join hands and dance in a circle. Instead of a dance for the dead, there is an annual mourning (*nai-yu*) in which loud and demonstrative wailings and tearing of hair are indulged in by one or more villages assembled in a circle.

Cremation very generally prevailed among the Mi-wok, but was not universal. The Indians high up in the mountains buried their dead, while those about Chinese Camp always burned. They have a legend that man was created by a coyote, probably the modification of the tradition of some Indian tribes that their nations sprung from the remains of a coyote, in strict accordance with the modern cultured doctrine of evolution.

**INSECT STINGS.**—The pain caused by the sting of a plant or insect is the result of a certain amount of acid poison injected into the blood. The first thing to be done is to press the tube of a small key from side to side, to facilitate the expulsion of the sting and its accompanying poison. The sting, if left in the wound, should be carefully extracted; otherwise it will greatly increase the local irritation. The poison of stings being acid, common sense points to the alkalis as the proper means of cure. Among the most easily procured remedies may be mentioned soft soap, liquor of ammonia (spirits of hartshorn), smelling salts, washing soda, quicklime made into a paste with water, the juice of an onion, tobacco juice, chewed tobacco, bruised dock leaves, tomato juice, wood ashes, tobacco ashes, and carbonate of soda. If the sting be severe, rest and coolness should be added to the other remedies, more especially in the case of nervous subjects. Nothing is so apt to make the poison active as heat, and nothing favors its activity less than cold. Let the body be kept cool and at rest, and the activity of the poison will be reduced to a minimum. Any active exertion whereby the circulation is quickened will increase both pain and swelling. If the swelling be severe, the part may be rubbed with sweet oil or a drop or two of laudanum. Stings in the eye, ear, mouth or throat sometimes lead to serious consequences. In such cases medical advice should always be sought as soon as possible.

**PAGAN WISDOM.**—It is related in the Koran that two angels guard every man on earth, one watching on either side of him; and when at night he sleeps they fly up to Heaven with a written report of all his words and actions during the day. Every good action is recorded at once and ten times over, so that no item shall ever be lost from the account. But when they come to a sinful thing, the angel on the right says to his comrade, "Forbear for seven hours to record that. Peradventure, as he wakes and thinks in the quiet hours, he may be sorry for it and repent, and pray and obtain forgiveness." The moral of this is that every one of us should pause before we proceed to judge our neighbor; for it may happen that we are altogether mistaken or that the very defect of which we complain may vanish in a moment. —*The Indian Mirror.*

## MEMORY IN DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

M. Delaunay has made a communication to the *Société de Biologie* respecting memory as studied under various biological conditions. The inferior races of mankind, such as Negroes, the Chinese, etc., have more memory than those of a higher type of civilization. Primitive races which are unacquainted with the art of writing had a wonderful memory, and were for ages in the habit of handing down from one generation to another hymns as voluminous as the Bible. Prompters and professors of declamation know that women have more memory than men. French women will learn a foreign language quicker than their husbands. Youths have more memory than adults. It is well developed in children, attains its maximum about the 14th or 15th year, and then decreases. Feeble individuals of a lymphatic temperament have more memory than the strong. Students who obtain the prize for memory and recitation chiefly belong to the former class. Parisian students have also less memory than those who come from the provinces. At the *École Normale* and other schools, the pupils who have the best memory are not the most intelligent. The memory is more developed among the peasantry than among the citizens, and among the clergymen than among the laity. The memory remains intact in diseases of the left side of the brain, and is much affected in those of the right, from which it may be inferred that the right side is more the seat of this faculty than the left. From a physiological point of view, memory is diminished by over-feeding, by physical exercise, and by education, in this sense, that the illiterate have potentially more memory than those who know how to read and write. We remember, moreover, better in the morning than in the evening, in the summer than in the winter, and better in warm than in cold climates. Memory is, therefore, to a certain extent, in inverse proportion to nutrition, and more than that, it is in inverse proportion to evolution, since it is greatest in those individuals who are the least advanced from an evolutionary point of view—inferior races, women, children, the feeble, etc. In short, according to M. Delaunay, there is an evolution of the memory, which is first sensorial, literal, and then intelligent; but memory, properly speaking, diminishes inversely as the evolution. —*Medical Press and Circular.*

**BRAIN WORK AND BRAIN DEVELOPMENT.**—According to the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, MM. Lacaze and Cluquet have examined, by the aid of the *conformateur*, the heads of 190 doctors of medicine, 133 rudimentarily educated, 90 illiterate, and 91 prisoner soldiers, with the following results:

	Doctors.	Educated.	Uneducated.	Prisoners.
Longitud.	85.29	81.97	79.13	81.19
Frontal.	48.91	48.65	42.35	41.13
Parietal.	55.56	49.66	50.27	48.99

There is thus a considerable difference in favor of the doctors, and this is especially marked in the frontal measurements. Moreover, the two sides of the head are not symmetrical—in the educated the frontal region is more developed to the left, in the uneducated the occipital region is more developed to the right. The head is larger (more developed) in the case of the educated than in those of inactive intelligence. Among the educated the frontal region is more developed in proportion than the occipital; and if the difference is greater in the occipital it is very trifling, while among the illiterate it is considerable.

A NOBLEMAN ventured, in a moment of conviviality at the Duke of Wellington's table, to put this question to him: "Allow me to ask, as we are all friends here, if you were not surprised at Waterloo?" To which the Duke replied: "No; but I am now."

**TRAVELING STONES.**—Many of our readers have doubtless heard of the famous traveling stones of Australia. Similar curiosities have recently been found in Nevada, which are described as almost perfectly round, the majority of them as large as a walnut, and of an iron nature. When distributed about upon the floor, table, or other level surface, within two or three feet of each other, they immediately begin traveling toward a common center, and there lie huddled up in a bunch like a lot of eggs in a nest. A single stone, removed to a distance of three and a half feet, upon being released, at once started off, with wonderful and somewhat comical celerity, to join its fellows; taken away four or five feet, it remained motionless. They are found in a region that is comparatively level, and is nothing but bare rock. Scattered over this barren region are little basins, from a few feet to a rod or two in diameter, and it is in the bottom of these that the rolling stones are found. They are from the size of a pea to five or six inches in diameter. The cause of these stones rolling together is doubtless to be found in the material of which they are composed, which appears to be loadstone or magnetic iron ore. —*Virginia City Enterprise.*

**ANIMAL RUBBER.**—An insect which produces a species of india rubber has been recently discovered in the district of Yucatan, Central America, by an American explorer. It is called *Neen*, and belongs to the *Coccus* family; feeds on the mango tree, and swarms in these regions. It is of considerable size, yellowish brown in color, and emits a peculiar oily odor. The body of the insect contains a large proportion of grease, which is highly prized by the natives for applying to the skin on account of its medicinal properties. When exposed to great heat the lighter oils of the grease volatilize, leaving a tough wax behind which resembles shellac, and may be used for making varnish or lacquer. When burnt this wax produces a thick semi-fluid mass, like a solution of india rubber, and it is expected that this glutinous liquid will be very valuable for cement and waterproofing.

**A RACE WITH THUMB ON THEIR FEET.**—Mr. Tremlett, the British Consul, at Saigon, in his report this year, mentions as a remarkable peculiarity of the natives of the country that they have the great toe of each foot separated from the others, like the thumb of the hand, and it can be used in much the same manner, though not to the same extent. This distinctive mark of an Anamite is not, however, usually seen in the vicinity of Saigon, but is now confined to the inhabitants of the more northern section of the empire, where the race has remained more distinct. This peculiarity is the meaning of the native name for the Anamite race; and that the name and peculiarity are of great antiquity is shown by the mention in Chinese annals 2300 B. C. as that (or those) of one of the "four barbarian" tribes that then formed the boundaries of the Chinese Empire.

**A CURIOUS FREAK.**—A curious instance of partial loss of memory is mentioned in the French papers. A painter, who was visiting a friend at Boucaux, was standing on a balcony on the second floor, when he overbalanced and fell on the ground below. Every one rushed down stairs, expecting to find him dead, but he quickly picked himself up and seemed unharmed. When, however, he turned to address his friends, he could not remember their names. He had forgotten his own, and, to his utter astonishment, he also found that he could not recall a single substantive. He can pronounce, one after the other, the letters of which the names of his wife and daughter are composed, but he is unable to unite them into one word. —*Boston Traveller.*

**TELEGRAPH IN BRAZIL.**—The Brazilian government has presented to the Legislature a project for establishing a general system of telegraphs, to spread all over the republic like a network, and to be placed in immediate communication with the public offices.