

Dr. Snell has made some original inquiries about the treatment of lunatics in lower Saxony, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In Hildesheim, which was governed by a Bishop, there are some records of lunatics being imprisoned in the ordinary jails and in cellars. The entries about their board indicate that the cost was small. Mad persons were frequently got rid of by the simple process of expelling them across the frontier, which was conveniently near. The persecutions against witchcraft were not nearly so frequent in the middle ages as in times nearer our own. It was after the Reformation that this frightful delusion became so virulent, and it was especially mischievous in Protestant countries, in Northern Germany, Scotland, and Geneva. Under the tortures of the rack, the accused were made to confess and to name their accomplices, so that the judges themselves were astonished at the number of witches. Dr. Snell tells us that at Quedlingburg, in 1589, one hundred and thirty-three sorcerers were burned in one day. At Lindheim, from the year 1640 to 1651, thirty persons, one out of eighteen of the whole population, were burned for witchcraft. In Fulda more than two hundred wretches were put to death for this imaginary crime (1603-1605).

#### *A New Anthropological Review*

We have received two numbers of the new *Centralblatt für Anthropologie Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, edited by Dr. G. Bushan, a serial in quarterly numbers, published at Breslau. It contains a rich collection of observations upon subjects which, though not directly within the scope of our Journal, are so near to it that the new Review is likely to interest many of our readers. A great amount of diligence and learning have been bestowed in collecting the information in these numbers from a variety of sources.

We have for example a resumé of the views of distinguished anthropologists about the signification of the fossil remains found in Java by M. Dubois, which he supposed belonged to an animal named by him as the *Pithecanthropus erectus*. The first authority cited is Sir William Turner, *Journal of Anatomy*, Vol. xxix. He observes that the cranial capacity of the Java skull is probably about 1,000, which is about the same as that of the Neanderthal skull. As far as form goes, the skull, though it has peculiarities, might yet be human. The skulls of Australian women had a capacity below 998. The femur might also be human; but the tooth

is that of a monkey. Manouvrier thinks that the skull might belong to a race of pigmies; from the small size of the internal cavity the intelligence must have been low; or it might have been the skull of an enormous gibbon with an intelligence greatly in advance of all existing apes. This is the view favoured by the finder of the bones.

Upon one feature Manouvrier lays special stress, an elevation of the under and posterior part of the parietal region stretching behind to the superior occipital crest, and in front to the submastoid. This formation is found in the anthropoid apes; most marked in the male gorilla, it serves for the attachment of the muscles of the neck. He does not think that the femur and the tooth belie either hypothesis. Most of the anthropologists cited believe the tooth to be that of a monkey. Dr. Rud. Martin alone holds the tooth to be certainly human, but thinks that it belonged to a younger animal than the skull. He thinks that both the femur and the skull belong to a human type. Along with other anthropologists he shares in the doubts whether M. Dubois' method to determine the cranial capacity from the incomplete skull be trustworthy. Professor Krause thinks that the skull might be that of a large *hylobates* or gibbon. He thinks the femur to be human. Professor Rud. Virchow observes that it is a question whether the fossils were found in pleistocene or the newest tertiary deposits of the pleiocene. The femur might belong to a gigantic gibbon, but is more probably human. The learned pathologist believes the swelling on the bone to be the result of *ostitis*. This would imply a severe illness requiring some care to obtain recovery. On this account he is disposed to think that the owner of the femur belonged to the human family. Virchow points out an important difference between the Java and the Neanderthal skull in the solid ridges round the orbits which are wanting in the latter, but are observable in some crania of apes.

One thing is plain, that there are great diversities of opinion amongst the able anthropologists about the nature of M. Dubois' find. Supposing it to be the remains of an animal never before studied, we might naturally expect peculiarities which naturalists had never before observed in connection.

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#### *Head Measurements.*

Dr. A. G. Roshdestwenski, of Moscow, has made many careful measurements of the head in 1,600 Russians. He