to be aware, why these twenty-one vocabularies were collected by a priest in 1891; but I have no hesitation in attributing them to the desire to comply with the wishes of the emperor of the Russians, and am sure it could be readily shown.

Their publication is praiseworthy, and carefully made; but it does not offer any new material on Central American dialects in the annals of new stocks. Two of the Maya dialects, the so-called Papaxol and Subinah, are slightly different from those already known; and the language termed "Lean y Malia" is the same as that know from other sources under the more appropriate name Xincue. The vocabularies include the Chapaque of Chichen and several Curia dialects, though the majority are branches of the Maya family.

An Anatomical Criterion to Distinguish Male from Female Skulls.

It has long been most earnestly desired to discover some anatomical feature which would enable us to distinguish the skulls of the sexes. Two years ago Vercwou declared that all alleged modes of differentiation so far discovered were worthless. Very likely Dr. Thoren Cutler, in the "Archiv für Klinische Chirurgie," Band 27, describes what seems a satisfactory craniological criterion of sex.

The os temporale forms part of the posterior wall of the glenoid cavity of the inferior maxillary, and also close in front and below the bony maxilla of the ear. It arise perpendicularly from the petrous portion of the temporal bone posteriorly, and forms backward, in the woman at about half the height of the mastoid process, but in man at a less height. In the male, the bone develops a sharp edge, which divides to form the mouth of the styloid process; but in woman this sharpened edge does not exist, the bone is rounded into a tubercular form, and the fossa is shallower and flatter.

Thus, in the male this form of the styloidi style to mastoid is small, and the posterior wall of the glenoid cavity extends so deep that it is not possible for the condyloid process to sit over it. In the female, it is so much more spacious that this feature alone will enable us to distinguish the crania of one sex from the other; and it also explains the surgical fact that luxation backward of the inferior maxillary is observed only in women.

An Etruscan Ritual Book.

Before Rome was founded, the powerful federation of the Etruscans had spread an advanced civilization over central Italy, covering her hill-tops with fortifications, whose impregnable walls offered no defense to the sea, the barbaric people, and language and religion, had disappeared, leaving no testimony but their tombs. From these some ancient inscriptions have been copied, but they tell us little. As a single word of the language has been identified beyond peradventure.

The Etruscan Religion profoundly modified that of Rome. They had a literary people, and in very early times wrote numerous famous books. These are referred to by Livy as works of divination, fatalis libri, and by Cicero as books of Etruscan funerary libri, or as Etruscan documents, charta Etrusca.

If even in the latter's day, they were in use by the Roman Senator.

It seems an incredible piece of good fortune that one such Etruscan Ritual Book should turn up in fair preservation in the British Museum, in 1891; but much such as remains unique. Two or three centuries, B.C., a munificence of Alexandria bought a lot of waste paper set aside for use in business, and employed some of it in shaping the corpus of a young lady. About 1840 her munificence brought to America, and last year in her wrappings this Etruscan book was identified by Professor Karin. The Vienna Academy of Sciences has undertaken its publication, and on its appearance I shall return again to its curious history and character.

Ethiography of the Finns.

One of the most interesting questions in the ethnological history of northern Europe is that concerned with the origin and migration of the Finns. They are ancient settlers, as they were known to the Romans of the time of Tacitus as dwellers on the Baltic Sea. In language they are first cousins of the Magyars of Hungary and also of the Samoyeds of Siberia. Indeed, some maintain that their name "Sooma" is from the same radical as "Samoyed." These residents in Finland properly reveal any marked Mongolian appearance, as one may from personal observation; but their strain is deeply Aramyan. A much less familiar branch of them are the Sirens or Smonins, who dwell in north-eastern Russia, on both slopes of the Ural Mountains, extending east to the valley of the river Ob, on which the town of Magi is one of their principal resoets, in latitude 65° north.

This group has been carefully studied by M. Stephen Somnion, whose volume, "Sirenis, Ostrogochi et Sinoamidii," appeared a few years ago in Fleuron. From numerous anthropometric measurements he carried out, he satisfactorily showed that the Sireni are Germansized Finns, quite like their relatives on the Baltic, and differing widely from the Ostiaks and Voguls to the east. It is probable, indeed, that the Sireni, who are much given to trading and wandering, are an offshoot of the western branch of the stock, rather than the eastern.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Sixth annual convention of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations will meet in New Orleans, La., on Nov. 15, as announced by the chairman of the executive committee. Titles of papers should be sent to D. F. Atkinson, Auburn, Ala., before Oct. 1. It is proposed to discuss the different subjects assigned to station workers for the Colburnian exhibition.


-Professor D. S. Margoliouth of Oxford has undertaken to translate the great Arabic geographical dictionary.

-G. P. Putnam's Sons are about to publish a new edition of Professor F. W. Taussig's "Twart History," enlarged by about 100 pages of new matter, including a discussion of the McKinley Bill.

-Francis P. Harper will publish shortly a new and important edition of Lewis and Clark's "Expedition over the Rocky Mountains," on which Dr. Elliot Coues has been engaged for some time. He is especially fitted for the task, and the reader to this faithfully reprint of the Philadelphia edition of 1844 will be of great scientific value.

-Harper & Brothers will soon publish an interesting work by Walter Besant, entitled, "London," which will not be a history of the city as a body politic, but the story of the life of the people at different periods from the earliest historical records to the times of the Georges, and will be fully illustrated.

-Edward Stern & Co., Philadelphia, will publish at once "In Arctic Seas," by Dr. R. N. Keely, in which the author, who accompanied the most recent explorations of the West Greenland Expedition last summer, gives an account of the incidents of the voyage of the "Kiss," conveying Lieutenant Peary's party to McMurdo's Bay.

-On Sept. 1, The Open Court (Chicago, Ill.) began the publication of a series of articles by Mr. Charles S. Peirs, to be enti- titled "The Critic of Arguments." (The word critic here means an art, like logic.) This series will be devoted to a critical and his- torical discussion of the methods of reasoning. Mr. Charles S. Peirs is one of the most distinguished scholars and mathematici- ans of which American boasts. But especially in the depart- ment of modern logic has his work contributed, perhaps more than that of any other existing investigator, to the permanent advancement of science. The results of his thought are, however, for the most part locked up in the proceedings and reports of learned societies, and now for the first time, in The Open Court, are to be presented in a less rigid and technical form, and made accessible to all who place a value on right thinking.