

this criterion furnishes most striking results respecting the antiquity of the former and comparatively modern date of the latter. As between the different collections of the Rigveda—negatively, the family-books ii.-vii. are of about the same age; positively, a chronological arrangement of four books may be made as follows: viii., ix., vii., and x. The most striking results for the Rigveda would be obtained, not on the basis of a division into books, but into batches of fragments and portions whose lateness is shown by contents, vocabulary, etc.

(2) PROFESSOR COOK followed with a minor communication, On the Word *weasand*.

He showed that the word *weasand* is derived, through the Anglo-Saxon *wæsend*, from the verb *hwæsan*, 'wheeze,' other instances of the aphaeresis of *h* in Anglo-Saxon being brought forward to support the theory.

(3) PROFESSOR LANMAN read a paper On Races of which the Men speak a Dialect different from that of the Women.

The women of certain Caribbean tribes have a speech of their own. In the Sanskrit dramas the women always speak Prakrit. An historical explanation of these facts was attempted.

(4) PROFESSOR MORRIS discussed Some Verbal Forms in Homer.

He described the attempt of Savelsberg, approved by Ameis, to show that such forms as *ἀνέσει* are real subjunctives of the indicative aorists in *-xa*. The attempt appeared to him unsatisfactory.

Eighteen persons were present.

NINETEENTH MEETING. December 5, 1879.

(1) The principal communication of the day was by PROFESSOR WARREN, On the Origin of the Nasal in the Greek Indefinite Pronouns.

This paper endeavored to show that the *ν* in the indefinite and interrogative pronouns is not of purely euphonic origin, but a remnant of the same pronominal stem which is seen in the Greek *νή, ναί*, Latin *nē, nam* (*quisnam*), Zend *na* (*kaṇa, cinem*), and in the Sanskrit comparative particle *nā*, which Max Müller and other scholars erroneously identify with *nā*, the particle of negation.

(2) PROFESSOR ELLIOTT discussed The Latest Theories respecting the Language of the *Serments de Strasbourg*.

This paper made a general review of the theories in historic order. The "border-land" set was specially criticised. It was argued that phonetics and historic evidence both show that the centre of France was the home of the language of the *Serments*.

(3) DR. JOHN SUNDBERG gave an Account of the Customs and Language of the Santals.

The Santals are a wild tribe of Dravidian origin, living in the Rajmahal mountains, in Bengal. The account was based on personal experience and observation.

(4) MR. ALLINSON read a paper On *Πῆρ* as an Adjective.

He showed by the history of this word and its etymological congeners the *a priori* probability of its use as an adjective, and confirmed the same by the exegesis of a number of Greek passages.

Twenty-nine persons were present.

READINGS IN FRENCH LITERATURE.

PROF. RABILLON at an early day will begin the reading of classical French authors, with brief expository comments, (*in French*). This course is designed chiefly for members of the University.

READINGS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

MR. SIDNEY LANIER, Lecturer in English Literature, will give ten expository readings of Chaucer's Knight's Tale and Shakspeare's Midsummer Night's Dream in connection, beginning in the middle of January, at an hour and place to be designated on the bulletin.

This course is intended only for the members of the University, and especially for those whose principal studies are directed to other subjects, and who have consequently but little time at command for English Literature.

The aim of the lecturer will be to awaken an interest in the poems under review solely as works of art. The course will embrace a wide range of considerations bearing upon this end.

The instructor will take pleasure in giving three or four preliminary sessions to students unacquainted with Fourteenth Century English, for the purpose of familiarizing them with the archaic forms of Chaucer.

Metaphysical Club.

FIRST MEETING. October 28, 1879. Sixteen persons present.

(1) MR. C. W. NICHOLS read a paper on the Metaphysical Fallacy, especially as illustrated by the Greek Philosophers.

This paper pointed out several notable instances in which the ancients had mistaken grammatical for real analogies.

(2) MR. B. I. GILMAN stated and defended the Doctrine of Limits.

(3) MR. GANTT considered the difference between the Calculus of Leibnitz and that of Newton.

(4) MR. PRATT presented a communication on Zeno's Four Arguments against Motion.

(5) A paper by MISS LADD, on the Non-Euclidean conception of Space, was read by Mr. Peirce.

Assuming that we know nothing of the actual construction of space, it was shown that Euclid entertained but one mode of representing it; and that by using the classification of curves of the second degree, three modes representing space might be entertained, thus giving rise to the Euclidean or Parabolic geometry, and to two Non-Euclidean, the Elliptic and Hyperbolic geometries.

(6) MR. MARQUAND (appointed to speak against the Doctrine of Limits) attacked both the statement and the proof of the doctrine as given by Dr. Whewell.

SECOND MEETING. November 11, 1879. Twelve persons present.

(1) The principal paper, by MR. PEIRCE, was on Questions concerning certain Faculties claimed for Man.

These questions related to the hypothesis of intuitive faculties, against which it was maintained that we have a variety of facts, all of which are most readily explained on the supposition that we have no intuitive faculty of distinguishing intuitive from mediate cognition; that there is no necessity of supposing an intuitive self-consciousness, since self-consciousness may easily be the result of inference; that we have no intuitive power of distinguishing between the subjective elements of different kinds of cognitions; that there is no reason for supposing a power of introspection, and consequently the only way of investigating a psychological question is by inference from external facts; that every thought must be interpreted in another, or that all thought is in signs; that cognition arises by a *process* of beginning, as any other change comes to pass. (The views here given have also been presented by the author of this paper in the Jour. of Spec. Philos. Vol. II.)

(2) MR. B. I. GILMAN presented a translation of Leibnitz's *Meditationes de Cognitione, Veritate et Ideis*.

(3) MR. MARQUAND read a paper on the Determinate Form of the Logical Copula.

Several advantages were pointed out which arise from the assumption of copulas with definite meanings.

BALTIMORE ATHLETIC CLUB.

At a meeting of the Directors of this Club, held on December 1, 1879, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That students of the Johns Hopkins University, who may desire to become members of this Club, be admitted as such, (provided they are non-residents of this city,) upon payment of the regular monthly dues, and without the payment of initiation fee.

The Club has large, and well kept rooms at No. 21 North Charles Street, which are equipped with all the appliances necessary in connection with a first-class gymnasium, and which are open daily.

Any member of the Club, upon payment of \$1.00 per month dues, is entitled, free of extra charge, to the use of the gymnasium, and all the apparatus, and to instruction in using the same; in addition to which, during the past year, outdoor sports have been added to the Club for the use of members.

The officers for the current year are, J. D. IGLEHART, President; J. HARRY LEE, Vice-President; JOHN N. STEELE, Treasurer; JOSIAS PENNINGTON, Secretary.

Members of the University can obtain further information from MR. H. F. REID, one of the Directors of the Club.