

of slight importance," and which consequently offered a favorable field in which to test the author's theory. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1900. Pages. x, 292. Price, \$1.25.)

The Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1898 has appeared. It contains, apart from the secretary's reports, but one monograph: that by the late Prof. E. D. Cope, of Philadelphia, on the *Crocodilians, Lizards, and Snakes of North America*. It takes up considerably more than one thousand pages.

The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for the year 1898-1899, Vol. I., contains a vast amount of material which will be useful to educators. The main subjects treated are as follows: Education in Great Britain and Ireland, Australasia, Belgium, Central Europe, Sweden, and Japan; the development of the common school in the Western States, from 1830 to 1865; the study of art and literature in schools; the organisation and methods of training in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis; American text-books on arithmetic; public education in Italy; educational training for railway service; university extension in Great Britain; Confederate text-books, 1861-1865; educational periodicals in the United States; educational directory; economic geography; Swedish gymnastics; and the future of the colored race. (Washington, Government Printing Office.)

MOSLEM AND CATHOLIC CONCEPTIONS OF ANIMALS.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

May I be permitted to add in connexion with the remark made at page 113 of my article "The Hebrew Conception of Animals" in the February *Open Court* the following note?

Muslim hunters and butchers have the custom called the *Hallah*, of pronouncing a formula of excuse (Bi 'sm 'illah!) before slaying any animal. Mr. W. Skeat in *Malay Magic* mentions that if a Malay takes a tiger in a pitfall, the Pawang or medicine-man has to explain to the quarry that it was not he that laid the snare but the Prophet Mohammed. The following text from the *Koran* clearly implies the future life of animals: "There is no kind of beast on earth nor fowl which flieth with its wings, but the same is a people like unto you; we have not omitted anything in the book of our decrees; then unto their Lord shall they return."

The other day I was glad to see that Dr. Corrigan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, had approved of a catechism in which humanity to animals was taught. I believe this is the first time a Roman Catholic prelate has inculcated any such teaching, though many visionaries and saints like St. Francis made friends with animals. Here in Italy I never heard of a priest who taught humanity to animals except that (I think) the Archbishop of Palermo said he did not wish to have bull-fights.

I wish Dr. Corrigan would get the Pope to "pronounce" on the subject. It would be good for beasts and very good for men, for as some German statistician showed, homicides are in proportion to humanity to animals.

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SALÒ, LAGO DI GARDA.