

the solution of which will greatly enrich our knowledge of Middle-Asiatic chirographic lore, languages, and history.

Of the highest importance also are the works of sculpture and painting, for the reason that they represent interesting and scientifically significant relationships between Chinese, Indian, Persian, Græco-Roman, and Western Asiatic art.

Yet, valuable as the results of the English and Russian explorations are, they represent nevertheless but a comparatively small portion of the discoveries in chirography, painting, and sculpture which might be brought to light by a more thorough and systematic exploration of the region in question. To this end, the excavation of cities which have been covered by sand-storms will be necessary, and the equipment of a scientific expedition to Eastern Turkestan for this purpose would require considerable money. There is a movement on foot in Germany to equip such an expedition, and all persons who are interested in promoting the enterprise should communicate with Dr. Georg Huth, care of Kgl. Museum für Völkerkunde, Königgrätzer-Str. 120, Berlin, S. W., Germany.

A FREETHOUGHT INSTITUTE FOR LONDON.

The freethought circles of England and America will be gratified to learn that their movement is recently showing indications of taking a more enduring and prominent form. We learn from a communication from Mr. Charles A. Watts, of London, that a philanthropic friend of the cause, Mr. George Anderson, who is approaching eighty years of age, and whose benefactions in behalf of free thought have in the past years been considerable, has invited Mr. Watts, "in conjunction with a few trusted friends, to arrange for the building of a Freethought Institute in London, to the cost of which he will contribute the handsome sum of 15,000 pounds sterling if an additional 15,000 pounds be subscribed for completing and endowing the building. Negotiations," the circular continues, "have already commenced with a view to acquiring a splendid site in a most populous centre, but no final decision will be arrived at pending the response to this proposal. The intended Institute will consist of a large hall, a minor hall, club and class rooms, a library, and residential accommodation. It is desired to establish a comprehensive Society, embracing all sections of the Freethought and Ethical movement, and in which the ideal and the practical aspects of Rationalism will be equally represented. The Sunday meetings will comprise organ recitals, readings from works of rational and ethical interest, addresses from well-known and representative speakers, and singing. A systematic endeavor will be made to enlist the support of women. A Sunday School for children and young persons will be a prominent feature, and social gatherings will be held regularly each week. Various courses of lectures will be delivered and classes held, according to the needs of those frequenting the Institution. Among other subjects, it is hoped that logic, philosophy, literature, psychology, ethics, and sociology will be dealt with, while opportunities will be provided for discussions to take place each week. There will also be classes for the study of elocution and the dramatic art, and of the other fine arts, should a sufficient demand arise. It is also intended to afford facilities to students who contemplate devoting their energies to the propagation of rational thought, and in this way a valuable educational centre may be established. There will be a large book shop in connexion with the Institute, and from this department a fair revenue is anticipated. Not only rationalistic, scientific, ethical, and educational works, but

also standard books in other departments of literature and selected periodicals will be on sale."

It has been decided by the promoters to limit the cost of the land and the building to 20,000 pounds, leaving 10,000 pounds for carrying on the work of the Institute. Persons in sympathy with the project are requested to communicate with Mr. Watts at his address, 17 Johnson's Court, Fleet St., London, E. C., and to state whether they will support the undertaking in any of the following ways: (1) By donation; (2) By annual subscription; (3) By shares in a Limited Liability Company; or (4) By bequest.

WUNDT'S GREAT WORK ON SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY.¹

The second part of the first volume of Professor Wundt's colossal work on social psychology comprises over 600 pages, and is a continuation of his analysis of language, to which the entire first part of this volume also was devoted. The present second part is made up of four chapters, viz.: the sixth, treating of verbal forms; the seventh, treating of syntax; the eighth, treating of changes of meaning; and the ninth, treating of the origin of language. The encyclopædic knowledge of the great psychologist is exhibited here to the best advantage, and the reader will find in the present volume the subject of language treated with unusual copiousness as well as analysed in every form in which it can possibly enter into consideration as a socio-psychological factor. The digests presented of linguistic researches, together with the bibliography indirectly given in the references, will render Professor Wundt's book a reference work of the highest order, and make it for many purposes a substitute for special works. It is impossible to do full justice to its contents without detailed analysis, and we shall consequently limit ourselves to a reproduction of some of the general considerations which Professor Wundt has advanced regarding the psychological conditions and causes of the exceedingly interesting phenomena presented by the historical *changes of the meanings of words*. This will render his mode of investigation clearer perhaps than a mere descriptive account.

The phenomena connected with changes of meaning are dependent upon conditions the thorough investigation of which in every single instance would be an absolutely impossible task, leading back as it does to the countless remote influences which have affected the historical development of speech, and encountering also formidable obstacles in the form of individual creations which, like all arbitrary acts, defy our attempts to disclose their originating motives. In fact, the infinite range of the conditions determining changes of meaning is manifestly the reason for the wide-spread opinion that such changes are invariably a product of accident and caprice. It is overlooked that even among the simplest, the most universal, and the most rigorously determined of natural phenomena, no concrete fact can be predicted with absolute precision as it actually is at a definite period of time and in a definite configuration of external circumstances. And so here we must content ourselves with showing that the changes in question arise necessarily from the conditions which are immediately given and which immediately precede; and since these immediate conditions are in their turn also natural phenomena likewise dependent on their spatial and temporal environment, we may regard it as

¹*Völkerpsychologie*. Eine Untersuchung der Entwicklungsgesetze von Sprache, Mythos und Sitte. Von Wilhelm Wundt. Leipzig: Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann, 1900. Pages, x, 644. Price, bound, 18 marks.