

published by the celebrated Bibliographisches Institut of Leipzig and Vienna,¹ will be gladly welcomed by the public. It consists of a collection of large colored plates and photogravures which, though drawn with the painstaking care and exactitude of a naturalist, nevertheless exhibit the marvellous harmony of the works of nature and the inexhaustible wealth of her formations. It is impossible for us to reproduce any of the colored plates of the work, but an approximate idea of its attractiveness may be obtained from the reduced reproductions of two of the photogravures which we have selected.

The first plate is a reproduction of several typical specimens of the Acanthophractæ, a suborder of acantharian radiolarians, or animals having a skeleton of twenty radial spicules (regularly distributed about the center according to the wonderful icosocanthous law), and a fenestrated or solid shell around a central capsule, formed by connected transverse processes. The Acanthophractæ belong to the most marvellous and interesting formations which the unicellular protist organisms exhibit. The interlacings are remarkably beautiful from the point of view of symmetry, and the lattice-work of the skeletal parts is particularly effective.

The second plate is a reproduction of some of the most beautiful specimens of the shells of the Prosobranchia, a sub-class of gastropods (a species of snails) with comb-like gills in front of the heart. The shells are asymmetric, enabling the inhabitants to withdraw entirely into their interior. These snails are distinguished by their size, beauty of form, and variegated coloring.

LEON MARILLIER.

Those interested in the science of religion, and especially those who are turning their attention to primitive cults, feel that they have suffered an irreparable loss in the death, on October 15th, of M. Léon Marillier, professor of the religion of uncivilised peoples at the École des Hautes-Études, Paris, and joint editor with Jean Réville of the *Revue de l'histoire des religions*.

M. Marillier has justly gained a world-wide reputation as a wise and thorough student of religion. Born in Brittany only 38 years ago, he had not yet reached the zenith of his usefulness. It was my privilege to attend his lectures and work under his direction during the year 1897—1898. The two subjects discussed were Marriage Rites and Human Sacrifices among uncivilised peoples. The fact that his lectures on Human Sacrifices, given two hours a week during the year, were confined to the Africans of the West Coast is an index of the thoroughness with which his work was done. His method was to present the raw material before the students and criticise in their presence, weighing the reports and the authority of the writers until the student felt that she was sharing the work of his private study. His pupils learned from him methods of investigation even more than facts. The subjects of his lectures were not popular, and the attendance seldom exceeded three during the year of my stay; sometimes I have been the only auditor; but even then Monsieur Marillier spoke with such vigor and volume as would have been appropriate for a room full of people. The professor always held the floor during the lecture hour. Questions and discussions were reserved to a later and private audience, even when there was but one auditor.

Physically, Professor Marillier was more of the German than French type,—tall and heavily built, of light complexion, with full face and sandy whiskers. His graciousness of manner, however, showed him to be a Frenchman.

¹ Issued in installments at three marks each.

The death of this scholar is particularly lamentable from the fact that he had published so little of the much that he was preparing, his only works of large volume being his translations into French. For the rest he wrote monographs and some magazine and encyclopedia articles. I have heard him express his desire to publish for the present only such brief studies dealing thoroughly with limited parts of his subject; not attempting any broader field until he had worked over every part of it minutely. He expressed admiration of the genius represented in such works as those of W. R. Smith on Sacrifice and Herbert Spencer on primitive religion; but he had quite a different plan for himself. It was to put forward no theory unless supported by all the available facts and to spend years in seeking and interpreting these facts.

During the Paris Exposition Professor Marillier played a prominent part in several congresses, especially in the folklore congress and in the congress of the history of religion. His wife was an amiable hostess and those who enjoyed the privilege of the professor's hospitality praise the congenial atmosphere of his Paris home.

He was remarkable in combining the characteristics of specialist and philosopher. While making thorough studies on such lines as sacrifices or ideas of the future life among uncivilised peoples he had a broad comprehension of the whole field of religion, which is well represented in the article "Religion" written by him for *La Grande Encyclopédie*. His early death is the cause of much regret, particularly from the tragic circumstances with which it was accompanied. While yachting with the families of his father-in-law, M. Le Braz, and his friend, M. Huin, a French officer, in the English channel, near Tréguier, Côtes du Nord, France, the vessel capsized, and the occupants, seventeen in number, were thrown into the water. M. Marillier, who was a powerful swimmer, was carried away by the swift tide, supporting his sister-in-law, whom he supposed to be his wife. He was found alone next morning on the rocks, bruised and bleeding, in a high fever, and still believing that he had saved his wife. He died from the effects of his struggle. Fourteen persons were drowned in this horrible catastrophe. M. Marillier's brother-in-law, M. Le Braz, a distinguished writer and professor in the University of Rennes, lost his father, mother, his sisters, his brothers-in-law, and his nephews and nieces in the accident.

LAETITIA M. CONARD.

THE DEATH OF MR. VIRCHAND R. GANDHI.

To the Editor of The Open Court:

I wish to reach the many friends of Mr. Virchand R. Gandhi, with the announcement of his death on the 7th of August, 1901, at Mahuwar near Bombay, India, from hemorrhage of the lungs.

At the age of twenty-eight, Mr. Gandhi came to America as Delegate to the Parliament of Religions, representing the Jain sect of India, and was the guest of Dr. Barrows. After the Parliament, he was the guest for over a year of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Howard of Chicago, during which time he visited Washington, Boston, New York City, and other points East, lecturing.

Mr. Gandhi made a second visit to America in 1895, by request of friends, bringing his family with him. He divided his time between the East and the West, lecturing and holding classes. His philosophy was pure, his morality high, and