

Arts, to hear Dr. Prestwich, F.R.S., read a paper "On a Possible Cause for the Origin of the Tradition of the Flood," in which he "treated the subject from a purely scientific standpoint." The chair was taken by Sir George Stokes, Bart., F.R.S. On account of recent indisposition Dr. Prestwich was unable to travel up to London to be present, and had deputed Prof. Rupert Jones, F.R.S., to read the paper for him. The paper described at considerable length the various phenomena which came under the author's observation during long years of geological research throughout Europe and the coasts of the Mediterranean. He concluded by giving the reasons why he considered that these were "only explicable upon the hypothesis of a widespread and short submergence of continental dimensions, followed by early re-elevation, and this hypothesis satisfied all the important conditions of the problem." The age of man was held to be divided into Palæolithic and Neolithic, and he considered rightly so. He concluded by saying that thus there seemed cause for the origin of that widespread tradition of a flood. The paper was followed by reference to a communication from Sir W. Dawson, F.R.S., who welcomed the paper as confirming his conclusion, come to on geological and palæontological grounds, as to a physical break in the anthropic age. The evidence of this was afforded by the cave remains and from a vast quantity of other sources. The discussion which ensued was joined in by a considerable number, including Dr. Woodward, F.R.S., President of the Geological Society—who, in referring to Dr. Prestwich, regretted the forced absence of the Nestor of Geology, and expressed the hope that ere long he might be able to be present at another meeting of the Institute—Sir Henry Howorth, F.R.S., and Profs. T.

Rupert Jones, F.R.S., T. McK. Hughes, F.R.S., and E. Hull, F.R.S.

—The latest volume in Appleton's International Education Series is by Susan E. Blow, on "Symbolic Education," being a commentary on Froebel's "Mother's Songs and Games." Miss Blow begins with an attack on Rousseau, which is in the main well deserved and effective; but we cannot agree with the opinion expressed at the end of the chapter that "between the views of Rousseau and those of Froebel there are in my judgment no affinities whatsoever." For the fundamental principle of Froebel's method of teaching is that the child's mind follows a natural course of development to which education, if it is to be successful, must conform; and this principle he obviously borrowed of Rousseau. Nor can we agree with Miss Blow's extreme views about the fondness of children for symbolism and the effectiveness of symbolic teaching in inculcating moral truth and forming virtuous habits. The old symbolic religions were certainly not very successful in improving morality, and we believe that such improvement in children can be much more effectively promoted by direct teaching and the influence of example than by any form of symbolism. In treating of Froebel's practical devices as employed in the kindergarten, Miss Blow has many things to say, some explanatory and some critical, which kindergarten teachers will find interesting and doubtless profitable; but we have no space to enlarge upon them here. We should add that this book contains but a portion of what Miss Blow desires to say on educational subjects, and that she intends to issue another work at some future time to complete the exposition of her views.

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