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this current of unknown power and substance that seems to proceed from an inclosed spring beneath the earth—a power that is not possessed by an open spring or well. What is it? Fellow delvers in this thing we call Life. Is there a generation of electricity by this compressed, concealed, light-shielded, poor conducting spring of water. Must all such power seek the light of the sun—that very fountain source of the mystery we call Life, and do we, the most sensitive of all the animals the Great Creator fashioned, become a conveyor the moment we step over this hidden spring and enter this unseen, unknown current that emanates therefrom. I think it is time we discarded the sneer of the unbeliever and looked a little closer into the mysterious power some of our fellow men claim to possess in

this particular. None of these possessors are as highly sensitive as the average professional man, few, if any of them are the deep thinkers and searchers after the truth as found in these more learned ranks, yet they can go out-of-doors and confound us by a thing so simple that I no longer smile and am beginning to believe—for with or without my belief the fact remains that this man Wigglesworth, with a triangular stick or wire, with the base open, can locate never opened springs. I would like to ask, if the editor is willing, that men having actual knowledge of the facts of other men locating springs would write this paper short fact filled letters on the subject, that we may start to trace this unseen power towards its source.

Customs of the Hairy Ainu.

W. R. Gilbert.

On the Island of Zezo in northern Japan and on certain of the Kurile Isles, which extend towards Kamchatka, there dwells to-day a race of people distinct in type. They are the Hairy Ainu, and although numbers of their settlements have been visited from time to time by white people, most of the inhabitants have been living in a semi-civilized state. Very few white people have seen the true Ainu, as they are still to be seen living in barbaric style on the wildest parts of Zezo Island. The only writer who has given a graphic description of the natives is H. A.

deep bronze or copper color, and in no-wise resembles any other of the Oriental races, but more like that of the American Red Indian.

The Ainu have no records written or otherwise of their former history, nor of how or whence they came to inhabit the Island of Zezo. These matters seem unknown to them, and even to anthropologists. Legends, however, exist among certain of the Ainu to the effect that many years ago Zezo was inhabited by a race of diminutive people, who were conquered and apparently exterminated by the Ainu. These people were called by



Ainus in Japanese Clothing.

Savage Landor, who in 1893 published "Alone with the Hairy Ainu."

Although I have travelled the whole length of the Kurile Islands, I cannot attempt in an article of this length to do more than briefly touch upon one or two customs of the Ainu.

As their name suggests, they are a race of exceedingly hairy people. The men grow great beards, of which they are excessively proud, and their bodies are thickly covered with hair, almost like members of the monkey tribe. The women grow no hair on their faces, but seem to find a solace in this, for this imaginary defect in tattooing moustaches on their lips, and often primitive designs on their hands and arms and also across their foreheads. Young unmarried women have very little tattooing on them; but once a woman is married, her husband seems to take a pride in decorating his bride with representations of hirsute adornment. The modus operandi is one which requires considerable fortitude on the part of the patient, since the crudest form of tattooing is adopted. This consists of making a number of incisions in the skin with the point of a knife. Cuttle fish black or smoke black is then rubbed into the wounds, and the operation sets up great inflammation of the lips, and is very painful.

A characteristic of the Ainu race is the color of their skin, which is of a

the Ainu Koro-pok-Kuru, or pit dwellers, owing to the habit of living in huts constructed over of a form of rectangular, circular or oval shaped pit, many traces of which are still to be found in the Kurile Islands.

One great trait in the Ainu character is their great bravery, and this is a quality held in high esteem among them. On the island of Zezo, bears are very numerous. The Ainu men, who are merely armed with such primitive weapons as bows, arrows, and knives, hunt and kill a great number of these animals. One species is notoriously savage. One of the most curious and unnatural customs is puzzling as to its exact origin. At certain seasons of the year the men organize parties for hunting bears; old bears are killed, their skins and skulls being brought home. The skulls are often erected on sticks, where they remain as trophies outside the hunters' dwelling.

All young bear cubs that are captured are brought home to the settlements, where the women of the tribe adopt them, and actually suckle these beasts as they would their own children. The object is that these young cubs shall be killed and eaten at what is known as a "bear festival." Often when the cubs are too big to be nursed any longer, they are confined in a wooden cage until the time arrives for these festivals. At this the unfortunate bear cub is tied