languages of British Columbia are stated to have a peculiar phonology, with a harsh and indistinct pronunciation, and comparing them, the difference is attributed mainly to climatic influences. The harsh utterance extends from Alaska south to the Columbia river, where it suddenly ceases, and gives place to softer sounds. At this point the coast ceases to be lined with friths, in which the abundant supply of fish affords the main source of subsistence. It is one of the rainiest regions known, and the fishermen in their canoes are constantly exposed to its chilling moisture. This condition seems for many generations to have given rise to continual coughs and catarrhs, which have thickened the mucous membrane. The same effects are apparent in the natives of Terra del Fuego, where articulation was compared by Captain Cook to that of a man clearing his throat. South of the Columbia river the purely fishing tribes cease, a mild climate prevails and a soft Italian pronunciation pervades all the Indian languages. Certain important points alluded to by Dr. Boas, Mr. Sproat, and Dr. Dawson are cited, showing the northern coast tribes to possess a civilization of their own somewhat after the manner of the natives of eastern Asia. Two of these are especially dwelt upon, viz : secret societies and "potlachs." Dr. Boas, speaking of the former, says there are in all the tribes three distinct ranks,—chiefs, middle class, and common people. The chiefs owe their position entirely to the secret societies. Any person who is not a member of a secret society belongs to the common people, takes no part in the public councils, and is without influence. The greater the number of secret societies to which a man belongs the higher he is in the community. As there are several societies in every tribe, it is only the worthiest that belong to them, the feeble minded or worthless, comprising the common people, a plan by which the government of the tribe permanently remains with the chiefs, or men of the first merit. The "potlach," a gift-festival, is a method