

## Book Notices.

*Prehistoric America. The Mound Builders: Their Works and Relics.* By REV. STEPHEN D. PEET, PH. D., Editor of *American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal*. Vol. I. Illustrated. Chicago: Office of the *American Antiquarian*, Toronto: William Briggs.

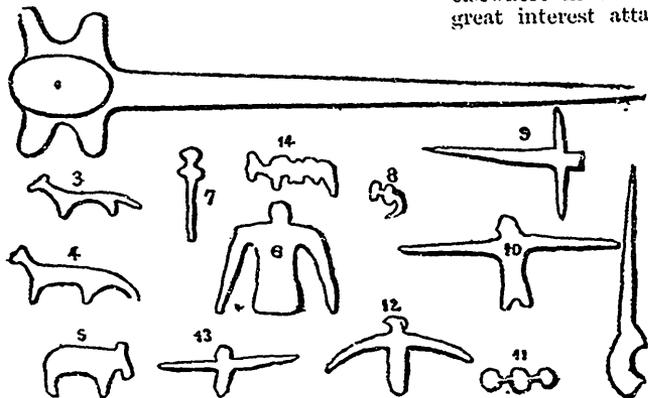
This is the most complete and exhaustive work that we know on this interesting and important subject. It is the result of many years' study and exploration. It describes the burial mounds and sacred inclosures of these interesting people, their village life, defensive works, migrations and religious sentiment as expressed in their remarkable structures.

The author discerns different

It has been supposed that no traces of the mound-builders existed in Canada, but what may prove an extremely valuable discovery or identification has just been made in the township of Otonabee by Mr. D. Boyle, the accomplished Canadian archaeologist. His examination of embankments or mounds on De Zang's or Roach's Point have resulted in establishing that these form the combination of serpent-and-egg emblems, of great antiquity in Europe and Asia as well as in America. These Otonabee earth structures are upwards of two hundred and fifty feet in length, the head of the serpent or snake pointing due east.

No similar structure is known to exist elsewhere in the Dominion, and very great interest attaches to Mr. Boyle's identification. The embankments have been regarded hitherto as entrenchments, but the fact that they are of the serpent-and-egg arrangement would seem to connect them with some sort of semi-worship or superstitious ceremonial observances.

Dr. Peet writes as follows: "Certain effigies which are called serpent mounds have been discovered near Balsam Lake in Canada. There is a mystery about this whole



ANIMAL MOUNDS IN WISCONSIN.

- 1, Turtle mound, 306 feet long, 6 feet high; 7 and 8, lizard mounds, 8 with curved tail; 9, cruciform figure, 209 feet long, 72 feet wide; 3 and 4, fox figures; 5, bear; 14, buffalo; 12, 13, 10, and 6, bird-like forms.

kinds of religion, manifest among the mound-builders. Animal worship and serpent worship, indicated by the effigies of the mounds; fire worship, as shown by cremation mounds; the moon cult, of which traces are found in crescent-shaped walls and altars; the water cult, indicated by walls and parallel walls connected with the watercourses; and sun worship, evidenced by oriented pyramids, sun circles and graded ways and sun symbols, ornaments and shell gorgets of the natives. The whole subject is treated with full detail in a very interesting and instructive manner, and is illustrated by two hundred and thirty-five cuts, and several full-page maps.

subject of serpent mounds in America which is difficult to solve. It is strange that we have the sun symbol in the Ohio mingled with the serpent effigy, but south of the Ohio the sun worship and pyramid mounds prevail, and no serpent effigies: but when we get to Central America we find the two once more combined.

"I am advocating Sir Daniel Wilson's theory of winning nations into America by three routes. First, by way of Behring Strait; second, by a more direct route—after the time of the Buddhist religion had spread; third, by way of Ireland, before the times of the Norsemen, and, perhaps, a fourth, by way of South America and the West Indies."