

FIFTEENTH MEETING.

Fifteenth Meeting, 26th February, 1887, the President in the Chair.

Exchanges since last meeting, 30.

G. M. Rae and T. G. Mason were elected members.

Mr. A. F. Chamberlain, B.A., read a paper on "Pre-historic Ethnology."

He said man probably originated in a continent occupying in former times the ocean south of Africa and Australia. He approximated in physical features to the negro. At a very early date the primitive stock divided into two branches, one with lighter skin and hair less woolly than the other. From the latter of these the surviving negro races have descended; from the former the brown races of Africa, from the parent stem of which have descended the Aryan and Semitic nations, who passed into Europe and Asia respectively from Africa. The Semites are probably less Caucasian in type than the Aryans. The primitive seat of the Aryans before their dispersion was in Europe; The Swiss lake dwellers and the old Pelasgians, who survive in the Albanians of to-day, were descended from the primitive Aryan stock. The Eskimo reached America from Europe, and from their parent stock have descended the Mongol tribes of Asia, with the Japanese and the Chinese. Two points which are of great importance in prehistoric ethnology are the antiquity of man in America and the extensive range of the old Caucasian type in early times. It is well to note that the evidence gained from the study of the languages does not bear out the theory that language originated in monosyllabic roots. The rest of the paper was taken up with the discussion of surviving primitive races, *e. g.*, the Basques, Fulahs, Australians, Ainos and Eskimos, and their bearing on prehistoric ethnology; and with the proofs that archæology and comparative mythology and folk-lore afford of the attainments and culture of primitive man.

Mr. Rouse thought that too high an antiquity had been assumed for the lake dwellings of Europe. He had visited the museums of the lake dwellings at Zurich, and had noticed that a number of the specimens of cereals showed the action of fire. May not this have occurred at the time of the inv