

universities. A great deal of interesting, entertaining and curious theorizing is found within its pages. In the last number we noticed a new theory for the explanation of the tides. The tides are, of course, due principally to the attractive influence of the moon. The tide adjacent to the moon has been explained by the attractive influence of the moon upon the mobile ocean. Scientists have, however, met a difficulty in the opposite tide, and have suggested that the solid earth is attracted more than the water, leaving the oceans behind. Again, we have been told that the earth and moon revolve, as though firmly bound together, around a centre, and that the centrifugal force throws off the water in the form of a tide. Hall, however, has suggested another reason. He thinks that the crust of the earth is thinnest beneath the oceans, that it is pulled or bent towards the moon, that the islands, being attached to the bottom of the ocean, are thus pulled beneath the surface of the ocean, and the result is *apparently* an elevation of water, or a tide. We suggest a consideration of the above theory to our readers.

HINTS TO QUERIES.

PERIODICITY IN THOUGHT.—O. W. Holmes says: "Just as we find a mathematical rule at the bottom of many of the bodily movements, just so thought may be supposed to have its regular cycles. Such or such a thought comes around periodically, in its turn. Accidental suggestions, however, so far interfere with the regular cycles that we find them practically beyond our power of recognition. Take all this for what it is worth, but at any rate you will agree that there are certain particular thoughts that do not come up once a day, nor once a week, but that a year would hardly go round without your having them pass through your mind."

FLICKERING OF FLAMES.—A gas flame flickers more than a lamp flame, and hence is more injurious to the eyes of a reader. The cause of the flickering is twofold—external