

the Zambesi River, in Africa, (Livingstone's Travels, pp. 660-669.) Herodotus found the same thing among the Lycians of Asia Minor.—(Herod., Lib. 1, c. 173.)

“Of the universality of the Iroquois system of relationship upon this continent we have more evidence. In addition to the Iroquois, it obtains among the Creeks and Chippewas. The system of the Dakotas, as far as it is given in Riggs' Lexicon, is precisely that of the Iroquois. Without looking beyond these, it is sufficient, for the present, that it prevails in the principal branches of four of the great Indian families: the Hodenosaunian, the Appalachian, the Algonquin, and the Dakotan.”

Following out his idea, accordingly, Mr. Morgan has printed a very elaborate and minute series of queries relative to degrees of relationships, and the names by which such are designated. These he has distributed, with a view to obtain, in the first place, a full knowledge of the systems pertaining among all the Indian tribes of the continent. Some of these placed in our hands for the purpose of co-operating in this interesting inquiry, we have recently had the satisfaction of entrusting to the efficient hands of Sir George Simpson, who has kindly undertaken to distribute them among the most experienced officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, and others most fitted to aid in such investigations; especially with a view to ascertain if any traces of a similar social system survive among the Esquimaux. Should such prove to be the case, they must next be sought among their Kamscnatkadale congeners on the further side of the Straights, and so westward into the Asiatic, or “Eastern” continent, as Europeans regard it.

D. W.

A CURIOUS COMPUTATION—NUMBERING THE HAIRS OF THE HEAD.

The *Medical Times* says:—A German *savant* has taken the trouble to count the number of hairs existing in four heads of hair of different colours. He found in a blond, 140,409 distinct hairs; in a brown, 109,440; in a black, 102,960; and in a red, 88,740.

MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

MAGNETIC ACTION OF THE SUN.

Mr. Brayley gave a lecture last month, at the London Institution, “On the Magnetic Action of the Sun, and its connexion with the Spots, the Earth's Magnetism, and the Polar Lights.” The principal object of this lecture was to give an illustrated outline of one great result of the discussion (by Major-General Sabine) of the observations made at the British Colonial Magnetic Observatories; by which as it has been said, we are “landed in a system of cosmical relations, in which both the sun and the earth, and probably the whole planetary system, are implicated.” In the opinion of the Joint Magnetic Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Society, expressed in their Report just published by the latter body, that discussion has not merely brought into view, but fully established, the existence of a very extraordinary periodicity in the extent of fluctuation of all the magnetic elements, which connects them