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Communications relating to the Editorial Department should be addressed to the Editor, HENRY T. BOVEY, 31 McTavish Street, Montreal.
The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents.
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NEW BOOKS.

The Art of Ore-Dressing in Europe, by Wheaton B. Kunhardt, (New York: John Wiley & Sons.)

This volume is the second of the Columbia School of Mines Quarterly Series. It purports to be a general description of the methods of working pursued in the ore-dressing establishments of Europe, and has been compiled from data obtained from the owners and managers of the foreign mills. The points discussed are the following: The general principles pursued in ore-dressing, under-ground separation, general size classification, cleansing, spalling, rock breaking, sizing, hand-picking, cobbing, roll-crushing, jigging, rough hydraulic separation, review of coarse-dressing and introduction to slime treatment, comminution, hydraulic classification, slime washing, crushing and drying of concentrates, losses in wet dressing, special dressing operations, features of mill construction. The work is of much interest, touching, as it does, upon the early methods in use, and noting in brief the great development in the mechanical manipulation of the ore during the past few years.

American Engineers and Surveyors' Instruments.—This is the twenty-fifth edition of W. & L. E. Gurley's (N.Y.) illustrated catalogue. Full and lucid descriptions are given of the various instruments, with rules for their use and adjustment.

The Contracted Liquid Vein, by R. Streckel.—An essay describing the results of certain experiments upon the flow of water through orifices, read before the mathematical section of the Royal Society of Canada.

The Metrological System of the Great Pyramid.—By F. A. P. BARNARD, L.L.D., S.T.D. (New York: John Wiley & Sons; Montreal: Dawson Bros.)

An Important Question in Metrology.—By Lieut. CHAS. A. S. TOTTEN, M.A. (New York: John Wiley & Sons; Montreal: Dawson Bros.)

These two works represent the views of those who swell the ranks of the parties engaged in the now famed metric struggle.

President Barnard in the essay before us, which is a reprint of a paper contributed to the Proceedings of the American Metrological Society, accounts for the existence of a large body of believers in a religious mystery surrounding the great Pyramid, as being the result of the natural law, that the faith of fanatics is intense in proportion as its foundations are weak, and that its disciples multiply in proportion as its doctrines are deficient of common sense."

After a brief description of various weights and measures, and a statement of the necessity and advantage of introducing the metric system which would "remove the confusion and remedy the inconvenience to all mankind occasioned by the multiplicity of the forms of expressing the quantities of changeable commodities," an introduction which he goes on to say is now only a question of time, he gives an account of the "Theory of the Divine Legation of the Great Pyramid.

The principal propositions advanced in support of the theory are:—

1st. That the external dimensions of the pyramid have been determined by means of a unit of linear measure which is one ten-millionth part of the polar radius of the earth: and that this unit is identical in length with the sacred cubit.

2nd. That the linear measure of one side of the pyramid, at its base, contains this sacred unit of measure as many times as there are days in the year, including the fraction of a day beyond the three hundred and sixty-five.

3rd. That the height of the pyramid (in its original and perfect condition) when multiplied by the *ninth power of ten*, expresses the distance of the sun from the earth with an exactness which puts to shame all determinations from transits of Venus, oppositions of Mars, perturbations of the moon, or any other merely human scientific method.

4th. That the daily motion of the earth in its orbit is expressed "in the round decimal number of 100,000,000,000 pyramid inches.

Various other propositions are also given relating to the dimensions of the interior passages of the pyramid, the measure of capacity discovered by John Taylor in the Sarcophagus in the king's chamber, the geographical position of the monument, &c., concluding with the article of the pyramid faith that the date of its creation is defined by the peculiarities of its construction

These propositions Dr. Barnard opposes at length and with very forcible arguments, which must be followed in detail to