

showed that in ancient days much labour had been expended by some persons on stone-work, but did not by any means bear out a theory as to the common race. He (Mr. Tregear) was fortunately able to show to the meeting photographs of the different scenes alluded to by Mr. Rutland. The great temple of Boroboro, in Java, was indeed one of the wonders of the world, and was, as Alfred Wallace had said, far more wonderful than the Pyramids. It was the most gigantic effort in the realm of human labour and human skill. If we turned from this picture to those showing the walls of Ponape we were at the other extremity of the land of art. In Ponape we found walls built of huge basaltic stones, stacked in layers exactly like stacks of firewood. Only foresters used to dealing with fallen logs would ever dream of mural erections like these. Then, at the other boundary of the South Seas, on solitary Easter Island, they again came upon statuary, but statuary of a unique and archaic description. Figures whose features resembled those of no living race; figures made for no apparent purpose except that of being ranged in a long seaward line as "gods of boundaries," watching the ocean from that small barren island. That Easter Island was the last remnant of the mythical sunken continent sometimes alluded to as "Lemuria" is improbable. If a continent had sunk, only the tops of snow-clad peaks would have remained above the water, and these would have been for a long time uninhabitable by men. There was little doubt but that there was extensive navigation among the South Sea Islands before Europeans came, for the double canoe or outrigger canoe was not only one of the fastest but the safest of vessels. That no trace of palæolithic man had been found yet in Central America was too small a point on which to hang the theory that the high civilisation necessary to produce the architecture of Palengone and other places had been introduced full-grown. Egypt was for a long time thought to be also without evidence of palæolithic occupation, but later researches had resulted in the discovery of chipped-stone implements, &c. So also Central America, when explored as Egypt had been explored, might yield up the tools and weapons of her earliest men. He believed that these papers of Mr. Rutland's would set several persons writing on portions of the subject next year, and he hoped to be able himself to give some information and to receive much information in papers originated by Mr. Rutland's able series of articles.

2. "On the Plants grown at 'The Gums,' Taita," by T. Mason. (*Transactions*, p. 393.)

Mr. Travers said the lists of plants accompanying this paper would prove most useful to those persons who were engaged in planting in this country.

The President, on behalf of the members, congratulated Mr. Tregear on his lately receiving from the French Minister for Education the Order of the Palm-leaf, in recognition of his scientific work in New Zealand.

Mr. Tregear thanked the members for their kind wishes.