

Remesal (Madrid, 1619), libro xi., cap. xviii.-xx., pp. 720-733, a province 'el Manché' mentioned as one of the provinces of Vera Paz, the Indians of which were converted in the years 1603 and 1604. Mr. Maudslay's map contains the Rio del Manché, an eastern tributary of the Rio Sta. Isabel, which latter, in its lower course, is called Rio de la Pasion. The province of Manché must evidently have been situated on the river of the same name, to the north of the village Cahabon, which was the starting-point of the Padres for their trip of conversion, as Remesal states.

Whether the name of this province, 'Manché,' has any connection with the word 'Menche,' as Mr. Rockstroh says the ruins on the Usumacinta (separated by a mountain chain from the central part of the Peten district) have, remains to be seen.

In regard to the notice in the same number and on the same page of *Science*, 'Explorations in Guatemala,' I beg to add, that the ruins of Tikal had been discovered in February, 1848, by Mr. Modesto Mendez, corregidor of the district of Peten, and by the gobernador Ambrosio Tut. Mr. Hesse, minister of Prussia in Central America, published the report of Mr. Mendez, dated March 8, 1848, in vol. i. of the 'Zeitschrift für allgemeine erdkunde' (Berlin, 1853, pp. 162-168), and added some general remarks, and two plates which he had carefully copied from Mr. Mendez's drawings. These plates contain the illustrations of four sculptures (in wood) and five monoliths discovered by Mr. Mendez in Tikal, and those of four monoliths discovered by him in Dolores, — another town with ruins, to the south of Tikal, in the same district of Peten. The chairman of the Royal geographical society is therefore mistaken in stating (p. 203 of the Proceedings) that the ruins of Tikal were described for the first time by Mr. Maudslay.

The report of Modesto Mendez is mentioned by Mr. A. F. Bandler in his Bibliography of Yucatan and Central America, in 'Proceedings of the American antiquarian society,' 1880, p. 92.

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#### Barn-owls in Missouri.

In *Science* for Jan. 11 the occurrence of the barn-owl in southern Ohio in unusual numbers the present winter is recorded. The same fact has been noticed here. Four have been caught in the city in as many different buildings, and a number took up their habitation in an unused chimney in one of the principal residences in the city. Another was killed a few miles out. They are so unusual here that no one knew what kind of owl they were when the first was captured.

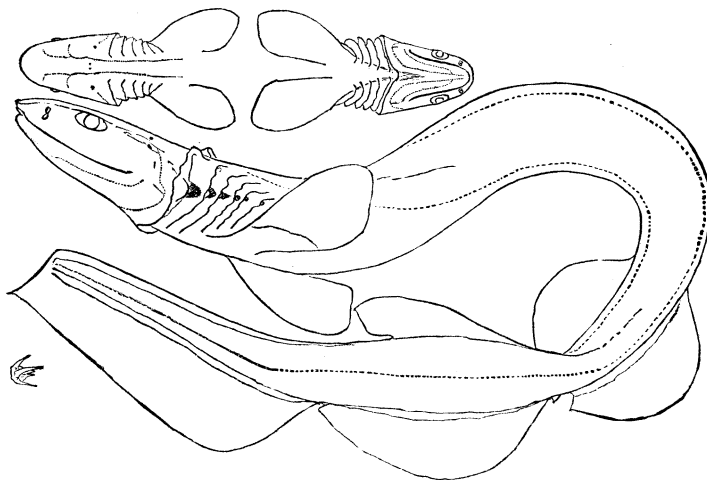
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#### A PECULIAR SELACHIAN.

THE outlines given here are taken from a shark recently discovered in Japanese waters.

It is a form of more than ordinary interest on account of the respects in which it differs from the majority of its kindred. 'Is it a sea-serpent?' is asked by all who see it. Those who believe in the existence of the ocean monster may certainly derive some encouragement from the discovery. About the throat the appearance is decidedly fish-like. The body is long and slender, five feet in total length, and less than four inches in greatest diameter; it becomes compressed and thin toward the tail. The head is broad, slightly convex on the crown, and has a look about it that reminds one of some of the venomous snakes. The mouth is anterior and very wide. As in other sharks, the teeth are arranged in rows across



CHLAMYDOSELACHUS ANGUINEUS.

the jaws; they are all alike. Each tooth has three slender, curved, inward-directed cusps, and a broad base, which extends back in a pair of points under the next tooth, thereby securing firmness, and preventing reversion. In the twenty-eight rows of the upper jaws, and twenty-seven of the lower, there are three times as many rows of the fangs or cusps. Of the six gill-openings, the anterior are very wide. Unlike other Selachians, in this the frill, or flap, covering the first opening is free across the isthmus, as in fishes, and hangs down about an inch. On the body the slime-canals — shown by the dotted lines in the sketch — form continuous grooves, as if the skin had been cut with a sharp knife; they extend to the extreme end of the tail. The spiracles are so small as to be useless; but, being present, they point toward an ancestor, a bottom-feeder, in