

species is indeed related to the monkeys, possibly more closely than even to the anthropoid apes.

THE REPORT ON THE MUSEUMS of America and Canada, recently made by Mr. Ball of the Dublin museum to the Science and art department of England, is not a very satisfactory document. Apparently designed to furnish hints to similar museums in the United Kingdom, it is nevertheless chiefly occupied with descriptions of the scope of the different establishments and of the contents, and to some extent the general arrangements of the several museums. But the account of the last is generally unsatisfactory and imperfect, while very slight or no mention is made of such devices as are characteristically American, and in which museology has been notably advanced by us. The best applications of American ingenuity to questions of installation are unnoticed: such as, the methods by which cases are made air-tight, and are locked at several points by a single turn of the key; by which shelf-supports are made light, secure, and graceful, and variable at pleasure with slight labor; by which a case applied to one use can be converted in a few minutes to another very different one without interfering with its sightliness;—these and many other problems of museum economy are altogether overlooked. The unit system of the National museum and the systematic registry of the Smithsonian institution are praised but not explained; while the applications of museums to public educational uses by the special arrangement of their material is very inadequately treated. Although it is true that in this last point our museums have more to show in promise than in fulfilment, we have still not a little to teach Europe; while America, on its side, has much to learn from such collections, for example, as the Liverpool free museum.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

##### Miocene deposits in Florida.

IN view of the discussion as to the extent of miocene deposits in Florida, it may be of interest to call

attention to the discovery of the extremely characteristic *Ephora quadricostata* by Dr. R. E. C. Stearns at Tampa. The matrix is a compacted fine greenish sand, crumbling under moderate pressure. The locality of the find is on the long rocky point. It is probable that there is a large area in Florida corresponding in age to what has been called miocene in Virginia and the Carolinas, and that it includes part of the phosphatic sandstones, as well as the mammalian and reptilian bone-deposits noted by Jeffries Wyman, Leidy, Neill, and others.

WM. H. DALL, *U.S. geol. survey.*  
Washington, D.C., July 23.

##### Abert's squirrel.

I have read with interest the article in *Science* respecting the *Sciurus Aberti*, from Dr. Shufeldt.

*Sciurus Aberti* is not uncommon in northern Colorado. I have seen it as far north as the C  che    La Poudre River, about 40   30' north latitude, and up to eleven thousand six hundred feet altitude near Gray's Peak. In this part of Colorado (latitude 39   45' north), and along the South Platte River in the mountains south-west of Golden, I have seen this spring three different individuals,—two of them black; one gray and lighter beneath, with tips of its hair on its back and sides mottled with black. In fact, we see them here from gray to blackish gray, and entirely black, although but little differing in size, and all noticeable by long, tufted ears. It is more terrestrial than arboreal in its habits, and, from its extreme range, cannot be called or considered a southern species straggling northward. Having been in the San Francisco mountains, and in all northern Arizona, I have not seen any *S. Aberti* as deep black as those in northern Colorado.

I have mentioned its existence here up to eleven thousand six hundred feet altitude; but I should qualify this statement by saying, that a squirrel in every respect identical with the *S. Aberti* was seen by me several times at the Loneland Pass, west of Gray's Peak. But it was more than twice its size; indeed, larger than any other species of gray, black, or fox squirrel I have ever shot or seen. Its habitat was near timber-line, feeding on pine-cones, and generally returning to the enormous heaps of disintegrated rocks which seemed its usual abiding-place. I never succeeded in getting a specimen of this rare squirrel at that place.

E. L. BERTHOUD.

Golden, Col., July 2.

##### Color associations with the months.

A lady whom I had the pleasure of visiting to inform myself concerning some curious planchette-writing in which she had participated, has, she told me in answer to my inquiries, several interesting arbitrary associations of the class which was discovered by Mr. Francis Galton, and of which the number-form is the most familiar example. She had a curious number-form,—a form for the twenty-four hours, and another for the months. A sister had likewise various forms, but different from those of the first-mentioned lady. Both said that music always speaks. 'Why, yes! it speaks, *of course*,' they both remarked.

The one to whom I wish specially to refer associated colors with the months, and in a way which struck me as particularly curious, as it is a jumble of arbitrary and of obviously natural associations.