

ster on the shield represents the fabulous Ahuizotl, or water animal," whereas, while duly considering the possibilities of such identification, Mrs. Zelia Nuttall stated, in conclusion, "that she was prevented from upholding it," and drew attention to the resemblance between the outlines of the Ambras "monster" and those of the coyote or prairie wolf, as depicted in the Codex Mendoza to express ikonometrically the name of the Pueblo *Coyohuacan*—place of wolves. Dr. Edward Seler subsequently endorsed Mrs. Nuttall's identification of the Ambras monster as a coyote or prairie wolf.

Dr. Heger, however, declines to recognize the device as representing a wolf, and declares it to be a bear from "its fangs, claws and shaggy coat,"—characteristics, by the way, also common to the wolf. He admits that "the tail is rather long for a bear," but adduces, in support of his hypothesis, the fact that bushy tails are possessed by the smaller species of bears, and proceeds to evolve from his inner consciousness a Mexican species of small, long-tailed bear, unknown alike to ancient Mexican pictographers and more prosaic but exact modern zoölogists. Such authorities as Wallace⁴ and W. H. Flower⁵ state that only one species of bear, *Ursus ornatus*, is known to occur in the Neotropical region, which includes the American continent from the northern limits of Mexico to Patagonia, and that species is the spectacled bear, restricted to the Chilean sub-region.

Is it possible that Dr. Heger confused the *true bears*

(Ursidæ) with the raccoons (Procyonidæ) familiarly known in Germany as "Waschbären," from their singular habit of washing their food. These, however, are not bears but small *bear-like* animals with long tails, commonly annulated. These raccoons do occur in Mexico, but they are characterized by "turn up" noses, which give them a mild and inquisitive appearance, differing widely from the wolverine aspect of the Ambras "monster," which looks as much like a wolf rampant with protruded claws as heraldic designs with that intent in general. The feet of the coyote or prairie wolf are more correctly indicated in the pictograph of the coyote from the Mendoza codex. The bears are flat-footed and cannot retract their claws, which form the only ursine feature of the Ambras monster.

Dr. Heger's fallacies, misquotations and self-contradictions are amusingly exposed by Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, in the current number of the *Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie*, Part 6, 1893. To use a familiar metaphor, it will be seen that the lady has left neither Dr. Heger nor his hypothetical, long, bushy-tailed, small *Mexican bear* a leg to stand upon. *Far-similes* of both the Ambras shield and the feather head-dress of the time of Montezuma are exhibited in the Ethnological Department of the Chicago Exposition. We believe Mrs. Nuttall is about to enter on the official duties connected with her appointment as "Judge of ethnological exhibits in the Women's Department," to which she has been recently nominated.

AGNES CRANE.

Brighton, Eng.

⁴ "Geographical Distribution of Animals," Vol. II., p. 201.

⁵ "Mammals Living and Extinct," p. 565.

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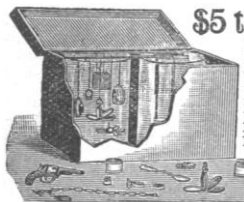
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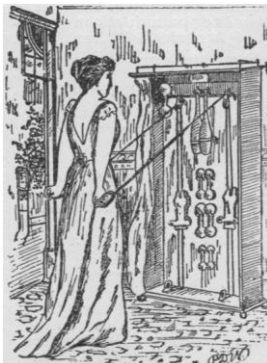
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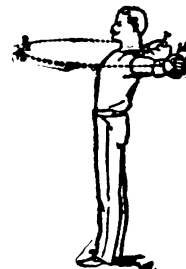
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