

an American table for three years. Almost at the same time Professor Agassiz engaged a table for Harvard College for three years. Both of these tables are in demand by so many investigators that they still do not cover the needs of American students. In fact, there have always been more American occupants than tables, and I receive them willingly as guests. Dr. Fairchild, of Washington, Dr. Wheeler, of Chicago, and Professor Bumpus, of Brown University, occupied the Smithsonian Table in 1893-94, while Mr. Rice, of Washington, occupied the Harvard Table in 1894. In 1894-5 Dr. Murbach, of Berkeley, occupied the Smithsonian Table, while Dr. Child and Professor Ritter, of the University of California, occupied the Harvard Table. At the same time Professor Hargitt, of Syracuse University, and Professor Gardiner, of the University of Colorado, were received as guests. At the present time Professor Morgan, of Bryn Mawr, and Professor Leslie Osborn, of the University of Indiana, are occupying the Smithsonian Table, and Dr. Nutting and Professor Reighard are soon expected to arrive.

"These twenty-nine American naturalists have already profited by the Zoölogical Station, and many more would have come had arrangements been made earlier and on a larger scale. In comparison with European states, I may state that Germany rents eleven tables, Italy nine, Austria-Hungary three, England three, Russia three (which were discontinued this year, but are going to be continued). Spain has had three, which have been for a time discontinued, but will most likely be re-established. Holland, Belgium, Switzerland and Roumania have each one table. I entertain the hope that France and the Scandinavian kingdoms will subsequently secure tables. I am glad to say that the Zoölogical Station is quite capable of giving them all the full benefit of its complete arrangements."

This letter places before American zoölo-

gists in the most direct and convincing manner the importance, not to say obligation, of remedying the past infringement upon the hospitality of the broad-minded director of the famous station. The Smithsonian table and the Harvard table should now be supplemented by a third, and it is to be hoped that some means will be found of adding \$250 to the generous subscription of Mr. Dodge and securing this end.

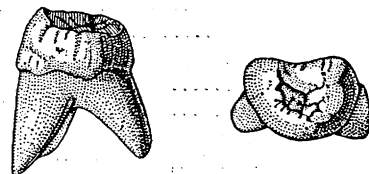
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CORRESPONDENCE.

PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS.

MR. EDITOR: In SCIENCE of January 11, p. 47, Dr. D. G. Brinton reviews under the title 'The Missing Link Found at Last,' Dr. E. Dubois' Memoir on *Pithecanthropus erectus*. Dr. Brinton, while accepting the dental apparatus to be of the simian type, acknowledges that the skull is like the famous Neanderthal man, and that the femora are singularly human. Professor O. C. Marsh (Silliman's Journal, February, 1895, p. 144) calls *Pithecanthropus* an 'ape-man.' In another place he alludes to it as a 'large anthropoid ape.' A communication signed 'R. L.,' presumably Richard Lydekker, appeared in 'Nature,' January 24, 1895; the ground is taken that the femur of *Pithecanthropus* is 'actually human;' that the skull 'can belong to no wild anthropoid;' and that the molar may 'perfectly well be human.'

It thus appears that differences of opinion are already being entertained, respecting the validity of *Pithecanthropus*. I have ventured to make a contribution to the subject,



since I quite agree with 'R. L.' The single tooth preserved (see the accompanying cut)

is the third upper molar. It possesses two divergent roots. Contrary to what one expects, the smaller part of the crown forms the outside (buccal), and the larger the inside (palatal) surface. Du Bois thus describes the tooth on the assumption that the broader of the two roots represented two other confluent roots. If the broader half of the crown were outside (as it appears to be from the figure) the identification of the tubercles on the grinding surface would be easy. As it is, it is difficult, if not impossible, to name the cusps. The tooth must be classified as irregular and degenerate. I am in the habit of naming such teeth, crater-like, since all sides of the crown are uniformly higher than the centre, and the sides of the single valley are much fissured. We often meet with such teeth in man, but so far as I know they have not been seen in apes.

The tuberculation in the gorilla for the third molar is complete; the fourth cusp (hypocone), while rudimentary, is distinct. In the chimpanzee, according to Owen, the third molar is tritubercular, but in a specimen in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, it shows distinctly the rudiment of a hypocone. In the orang the third molar is distinctly quintitubercular, the fifth cusp being developed in the commissure between the mesocone and the hypocone.

The tooth of *Pithecanthropus* is larger than any human tooth with which I am familiar. The following table will place its measurements in harmony with ape and human teeth.

	Length.	Width.
Pithecanthropus,.....	11.3 mm.	15.3 mm.
Gorilla,.....	14.1 "	13.5 "
Orang,.....	12 "	13 "
Chimpanzee,.....	10 "	10 "
Native of Australia,(1).	10 "	13 "
" " " (2).....	10 "	14 "
" " Sandwich Islands,....	10 "	13.5 "

In Owen's Odontography the gibbon is seen to possess a molar of length 6 mm. and

width 7.5 mm.; but even here the form of the tooth is quite unlike that of *Pithecanthropus*, being tritubercular with a rudimental hypocone. The tooth, unlike that of any anthropoid ape examined, is wider than long. The proportion of the width in comparison to the length is much the same as in the third molar of the human subject. The great size of the tooth and the possession of three roots, forming two diverging root-stems are distinguishing characters, but they are not simian. Some allowance must be made for the great variability in the shape of the third upper human molar.

Respecting the calvarium, I note in the view of the vertex a median elevation apparently over the interfrontal suture. This is often met with in the human skull, but so far as I know is never seen in the skull of the ape. The recession back of the external orbital process differs only in degree from that seen in man. The femur is indubitably human.

HARRISON ALLEN.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 14, 1895.

THE ELIHU THOMSON PRIZE.

THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Your transatlantic contemporary, *Nature*, has from its beginning enjoyed a large support among scientific men of the United States. It is so well conducted, and combines in so unusual a degree freshness and reliability, that it is almost indispensable, and Americans continue to renew their subscriptions annually, in spite of the very general feeling and not infrequently expressed opinion that, on the whole, it is not now and never has been quite fair or just in its treatment of American science and scientific men.

An illustration of this is to be found in a recent number (January 31, 1895) which is so striking as to deserve attention. On page 324 will be found a note in reference to the recently announced award of the Elihu Thomson Prize (see this journal, page 190). It is a most ingeniously con-