

pelagic sealing has been carried on in Bering Sea, thousands of motherless 'pups' have died on the islands each year of starvation.

It is lamentable that the author has been so grossly deceived in these matters, and still more unfortunate that a scientific work should be tainted with partisan odor.

It is stated that no islands in Bering Sea besides St. Paul and St. George are inhabited by fur-seals. This must be a slip of the pen, for of course Mr. Lydekker knows that the Commander Islands are the breeding grounds of the *west* Bering Sea herd, just as the Pribilof Islands are the home of the *east* Bering sea herd.

In the matter of nomenclature the author seems to be on the fence. In some cases the law of priority is rigidly enforced; in others a name in common use is retained rather than the earlier name. Preoccupied generic names are as a rule discarded, but *Bassaris*, though preoccupied, is given instead of *Bassariscus*—doubtless by oversight.

The author's attitude as to genera is shown by the remark that in a certain group only one genus can be admitted 'on account of intermediate forms.' Is this not a surprising position for one of the most distinguished of living paleontologists? Are not all mammals connected by intermediate forms, living or extinct, even if all are not yet discovered? And would not Lydekker's system, if logically enforced, result sooner or later in the destruction of most of our generic groups? Is it not more rational to found genera on the weight of characters as presented in extremes of differentiation rather than on the accident of the survival or extinction of annectant species?

As a general criticism of the Royal Natural History, so far as now issued, it may be said that the parts on American mammals are weak. On the other hand, the foreign species—foreign from our stand-

point—are treated with a fullness and reliability not to be found in any other work. The magnitude of the undertaking and the haste in which the parts had to be prepared (to appear monthly) inevitably led to occasional inaccuracies; but the defects are far outweighed by the merits, and the work will prove helpful to naturalists and amateurs alike for many years to come. It is, indeed, a great satisfaction to be able to turn to a single publication in which the principal facts respecting the mammals of the world are brought down to date and stated with clearness and authority.

C. HART MERRIAM.

*The Book of Antelopes.* By P. L. SCLATER and OLDFIELD THOMAS. Illustrated by JOSEPH WOLF and J. SMITH. 4°, London, R. H. Porter, 1894-95.

The second part of this handsome and useful work, dated January, 1895, has come to hand. The distinguished authors make no attempt to offer a complete scientific treatise on the antelopes, but furnish "descriptive letter-press [with full synonymy] for the beautiful series of lithographic plates drawn some twenty years ago under the supervision of the late Sir Victor Brooke, making thereto such necessary modifications and additions as the progress of science demands."

The work comprises the diverse members of the Bovidae commonly called antelopes, hartbeests, gnus, duikers, water-boks and gazelles, and also the gemsbok, saiga, oryx, eland and many others. The geographic range of each species is given, together with an interesting account of its habits and peculiarities. Besides the full page colored plates, there are many excellent cuts in the text, mostly of horns and skulls. The book therefore is helpful alike to the naturalist and the sportsman, and is a handsome addition to any library.

The animals treated in the first two parts

are the hartbeests and gnus (genera *Bubalis*, *Damaliscus* and *Connochætes*), all belonging to the subfamily Bubalidinae, and residents of Africa and Arabia. Twelve colored plates have been issued, and seven are promised with the next number, which will be devoted to the duikers (*Cephalophus*).

C. H. M.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

PROF. S. CALVIN, State Geologist of Iowa, announces that reprints of the photographs accumulated by the survey may be had for 12½ cents each. A descriptive list of views may be had on application to the State Geologist at Des Moines; all orders to be made by the numbers of this list. If this practice were generally adopted by our State Surveys, it would be greatly to the advantage of many students and teachers.

PROF. W. R. NEWBOLD, of the University of Pennsylvania, has become one of the associate editors of the *American Naturalist*. In the current number he gives an account of 'The Present State of Psychology.'

DR. WIRTINGER has been made Professor of Mathematics in the University of Innsbruck.

DR. WILDER D. BANCROFT, now Instructor in Harvard University, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Physical Chemistry in Cornell University.

PROF. FRANCIS GOTCH, now of University College, Liverpool, has been elected to the Waynflete Chair of Physiology at the University of Oxford, vacant by the transferrence of Prof. Burdon Saunderson to the Regius Professorship of Medicine.

JAMES E. OLIVER, Professor of Mathematics in Cornell University, died at Ithaca, on March 28th.

THE DUKE D'ORLÉANS has presented the Imperial Institute of London with his extensive collection of specimens of natural history, costumes and curiosities.

MR. LESTER F. WARD writes that he has just received from the family confirmation of the reported death of the Marquis Saporita. He died at Aix on January 25th.

DR. NIKOLA TESLA suffered a serious loss in the destruction of his laboratory by fire on March 13th.

GENERAL DE MASOUTY, Founder and Director of the Pic du Midi Observatory, died recently at the age of eighty years.

DR. HARRISON ALLEN has been elected a member of the Council of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John H. Redfield.

THE Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies of Washington has begun to publish a monthly programme, giving the dates of meeting of the various scientific societies of Washington for the ensuing month and a full list of papers to be presented.

AT a meeting of the New York Alumni of the Johns Hopkins University, on March 29th, President Gilman made an address on 'Impending Problems in Education.' An address was also made by Professor Butler, of Columbia College.

A NATIONAL Exhibition of Industry and Fine Arts in the City of Mexico will be opened on April 2d, and an International Exposition is proposed for Montreal, to be opened on May 4th.

AT the last meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, Miss Emma Walter read a paper entitled *Does the Delaware Water Gap Consist of Two River Gorges?* She adduced evidence to show that the river once flowed through the Gap from the south towards the north; that this north-flowing river was pre-glacial, and that much the greater part of the erosion is the work of this old river, the remainder being due to the action of the present south-flowing stream.