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THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY.

HUXLEY died on June 29th, having attained the age of seventy years on May 4th. His death was not unexpected, as he had been lying ill at Eastbourne for nearly four months, nor can it be regarded as premature, as his important contributions to science ceased some fifteen years ago. But the vigor of his thought and language had remained unabated, and his death, following that of Tyndall, leaves a great blank in the group of men who from England have directed the course of modern science.

Huxley made his own way, his father having been an undermaster in a school in the Middlesex village of Ealing. He became a surgeon in the navy and spent four years in a cruise in the South Seas. A sea voyage was thus the determining factor in his life, as in the case of Darwin. Several communications sent home to the Linnæan Society were rejected, but in 1849 the Royal Society published his paper on the *Anatomy and Affinities of the Medusæ*, and in 1851 he was elected a fellow of the Society. He was disappointed in his hopes that the admiralty would publish his great work on *Oceanic Hydra* (which finally appeared in 1859), and resigned his position in the navy. After several failures to secure a position (he and his friend Tyndall applied unsuccessfully for vacant chairs in the University of Toronto) he succeeded Forbes in 1854 as paleontologist and professor of natural his-

tory in the Royal School of Mines, and held these positions until his retirement from active work in 1885.

In the same year he was appointed Fullerian professor of physiology in the Royal Institution and examiner in physiology and comparative anatomy in the University of London. In the thirty years that followed he filled a large number of positions, some honorary and some requiring a large expenditure of time and labor. In 1858 he was Croonian lecturer to the Royal Society; from 1863 to 1869 he was professor of comparative anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons; in 1875–6 he acted as substitute in the chair of natural history in the University of Edinburgh; from 1870–2 he was a member of the first London School Board; from 1881–5 he was inspector of salmom fisheries. He was Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen, president of the Geological and Ethnological Societies, president of the British Association, and secretary and president of the Royal Society. He received degrees from Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Dublin, Würzburg and Breslau, and was a member of the leading scientific societies and academies of the world.

Owing to failing health—his heart was affected—Huxley retired from active work in 1885, and latterly had been living by the sea. He suffered from an attack of influenza early in March, from which he did not recover, and finally succumbed to cardiac and pulmonary complications. He was interred on July 4th, in Marylebone cemetery, Finchley, where his eldest son lies buried. His wife, three sons and four daughters survive him.

Huxley's zoölogical writings cover the whole range of the science from the protozoa to man, including an equal consideration of living and extinct species. But his interests and publications were by no means confined to zoölogy. He wrote excellent introductions to physiology and physiography. He discussed many problems, from Hume's philosophical scepticism to the 'Salvation Army.' Indeed, his original contributions to zoölogy are at present overshadowed by his fame as a teacher and advocate. Perhaps he would himself have regretted this. He wrote in 1894 (referring doubtless to Tyndall): "At the same time it must be admitted that the popularization of science, whether by lecture or essay, has its drawbacks. Success in this department has its perils for those who succeed. The 'people who fail' take their revenge, as we have recently had occasion to observe, by ignoring all the rest of a man's work and glibly labelling him a mere popularizer."

But Huxley was undoubtedly fitted for the work he accomplished. His thought was clear and his character forcible, and these are admirably reflected in his language. It may seem to us that the batteries are needlessly heavy in view of the defences, but there is truth in what he said with not uncharacteristic self-assertion—his work has been 'inclosed among the rubble of the foundations of later knowledge.' Huxley has described what he aimed to do and what he accomplished better than another can—he wrote:

"To promote the increase of natural knowledge and to forward the application of scientific methods of investigation to all the problems of life to the best of my ability, in the conviction which has grown with my growth and strengthened with my strength that there is no alleviation for the sufferings of mankind except veracity of thought and of action, and the resolute facing of the world as it is when the garment of make-believe by which pious hands have hidden its uglier features is stripped off. It is with this intent that I have subordinated any reasonable, or unreasonable, ambition for scientific fame, which I may have permitted myself to entertain, to other ends; to the popularization of science; to the development and organization of scientific education; to the endless series of battles and skirmishes over evolution; and to untiring opposition to that ecclesiastical spirit, that clericalism, which in England, as everywhere else, and to whatever denomination it

may belong, is the deadly enemy of science. In striving for the attainment of these objects, I have been but one among many, and I shall be well content to be remembered, or even not remembered, as such."

THE ST. ELIAS BEAR.

A BEAR has been for some time reported as frequenting the vicinity of the glaciers of the St. Elias Alpine region, which is regarded by the Indians and hunters as a distinct species from either the black or the large brown bear of Alaska. It is of moderate size, the largest skins not exceeding six feet in length, and is reported to be shy and less fierce than either of the others. The examination of four well preserved trapper's skins of this animal in the possession of Major Turner, of Sitka, has convinced me that we have to do with an animal which is unlike either of the common bears of the region, and specifically distinct from the brown bear of Alaska, which has been cited of late under the name of *Ursus Richardsonii* of Mayne Reid, though perhaps forming a separate race from the typical Barren Ground bear. Whether the St. Elias bear forms a distinct species from the black bear is doubtful, but it is at least a well defined local race, to which I have seen no approximation among the thousands of black bear skins which I have examined in past years in the hands of traders in this Territory. As such it seems desirable to call attention to it by such a description as is practicable at this time.

The general color of the animal resembles that of a silver fox. The fur is not very long, but remarkably soft and with a rich under fur of a bluish black shade, numbers of the longer hairs being white, or having the distal half white and the basal part slaty. The dorsal line from the tip of the nose to the rump, the back of the very short ears, and the outer faces of the limbs, are jet black. Numerous long white hairs issue from the ears; black and silver is the prevalent pelage of the sides, neck and rump; the under surface of the belly and the sinuses behind the limbs are grayish white, or even nearly pure white, I am told, in some cases. The sides of the muzzle and the lower anterior part of the cheeks are of a bright tan color, a character I have not seen in any other American bear; and this character is said to be invariable. There is no tint of brown elsewhere in the pelage. There is no tail visible on the pelts. The claws are small, very much curved, sharp, black above and lighter below; the animal evidently can climb trees, which the brown bear cannot do.

This bear is known to range about the St. Elias glaciers, especially near Yakutat, and a single specimen has been killed on the mountains as far east as Jureau. About thirty-five skins have been brought to Sitka, mostly from Yakutat. A mounted skin, the only one known as yet (said to contain the skull), is in the possession of Mr. Frank A. Bartlett, of Port Townshend, Wash.

My attention was called to this animal by Lieut. G. T. Emmons, U. S. N., well known in connection with the fine collection of Alaskan ethnology in the American Museum of New York; and I would suggest the varietal name of *Emmonsii* for the St. Elias bear. It is also known among the fur dealers here as the Glacier, or the Blue bear. I hope to be able to secure specimens of the skin and skull for the National Museum, through the Yakutat hunters, later.

It is worthy of note that the Indians report another animal unknown to naturalists, on the higher mountains of the mainland. It is said to resemble the mountain sheep and to have horns nearly as long but almost straight, like those of an ibex. Lieut. Emmons is confident that these reports have a basis in fact.

WM. H. DALL.

SITKA, ALASKA, June 28, 1895.