IT is stated that the University of Cincinnati has received a gift of $45,000 from Mr. Henry Hanna, to be used in the erection of a wing in the new University building.

THE Belgium ambassador in Berlin has called the attention of the German government to the fact that imitations of the stamp of the University of Ghent have been counterfeited with a view to selling diplomas of the University, and the Berlin Foreign Office gives warning of the existence of these documents.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM J. HUSSEY, of Illinois, has been appointed to succeed Professor Bernard as astronomer of Lick Observatory.

DR. L. A. BAUER, formerly of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, is lecturing this year on mathematical physics and on geophysics at the University of Chicago.

J. ALLEN GILBERT (Ph. D., Yale) has been made assistant professor of psychology at the University of Iowa.

PRINCIPAL PETERSON has been presented with a gift of silver plate on the occasion of his leaving the University of Dundee to become president of McGill College, Montreal.

IT is stated that J. H. Tyrrell, of the Geological Department of Canada, will be elected professor of geology and mineralogy in the University of Toronto, succeeding Professor Chapman, who has just resigned.

IT is stated that Professor Hering, of Prague, has been offered the chair of physiology, vacant by the death of Professor Karl Ludwig.

DR. ELEXANDER ROLOSSOW has been appointed professor of histology and embryology in the University of Warsaw in the place of Dr. H. Hoyer, who has resigned.

DR. SOMMER, professor of anatomy in Greifswald University, has tendered his resignation, to take effect on September 1st.

WE learn from the *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau* that the geologists Dr. Robert Scheibe and Dr. Fritz Kötter have been appointed professors in the Bergakademie, of Berlin. Dr. Rex and Dr. Steinbach have been appointed to assistant professorships of anatomy and physiology, respectively, in the University of Prague.

DR. TH. CURTIUS has declined a call to the professorship of chemistry in the University of Tübingen, vacant through the death of Lothar von Meyer.

PROFESSOR H. WILD, director of the Central Observatory, University of St. Petersburg, has resigned his position on account of ill health.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BALM FOR WOUNDED AUTHORS AND PROOF-READERS.

THE recent receipt of Dr. Wortman's memoir 'On the Osteology of Agriochœrus,' like its several predecessors published within a year or so, has recalled a remarkable lapse of memory occuring to two of the most eminent and sagacious naturalists of all time. The case is of psychological significance, and I have thought it might amuse as well as interest readers of SCIENCE.

Prof. Huxley, in his excellent 'Introduction to the Classification of Animals' (published in 1869), in his first chapter 'On Classification in General,' concluded a consideration of Cuvier's law of the correlation of structure with the following paragraphs:

"Cuvier, the more servile of whose imitators are fond of citing his mistaken doctrines as to the nature of the methods of palæontology against the conclusions of logic and of common sense, has put this so strongly that I cannot refrain from quoting his words.*

"But I doubt if any one would have divined, if untaught by observation, that all ruminants have the foot cleft, and that they alone have it. I doubt if any one would have divined that there are frontal horns only in this class; that those among them

* Ossemens fossiles, ed. 4^{me}, tome, 1^{r}, p. 184.

which have sharp canines for the most part lack horns.

"However, since these relations are constant, they must have some sufficient cause; but since we are ignorant of it, we must make good the defect of the theory by means of observation; it enables us to establish empirical laws, which become almost as certain as rational laws, when they rest on sufficiently repeated observations; so that now, whoso sees merely the print of a cleft foot may conclude that the animal which left this impression ruminated, and this conclusion is as certain as any other in physics or morals. This footprint alone, then, yields to him who observes it, the form of the teeth, the form of the jaws, the form of the vertebræ, the form of all the bones of the legs, of the thighs, of the shoulders, and of the pelvis of the animal which has passed by; it is a surer mark than all those of Zadig."

The first perusal of these remarks would occasion surprise to some and immediately induce a second, more careful reading to ascertain whether they had not been misunderstood. Men of much inferior capacity than Cuvier or Huxley, like myself, must have at once recalled living exceptions to the positive statements as to the coördination of the 'foot cleft' with the other characters specified. One of the most common of domesticated animals—the hog—would come up before the 'mind's eye,' if not the actual eye at the moment, to refute any such correlation as was claimed. Nevertheless, notwithstanding the fierce controversial literature centered on Huxley, I have never seen an allusion to the lapse. And yet every one will admit that the hog has the 'foot cleft' as much as any ruminant, but the 'form of the teeth,' and the form of some vertebræ are quite different from those of the ruminants, and of course the multiple stomach and adaptation for rumination do not exist in the hog. That any one mammalogist should make such a slip is not very surprising, but that a second equally learned should follow in his steps is a singular psychological curiosity. To make the case clearer to those unacquainted with mammals, I may add that *because the feet are cleft in the same manner* in the hogs as in the ruminants, both groups have long been associated in the same order under the name of Paridigitates or Artiodactyles, contrasting with another (comprising the tapirs, rhinocerotids and horses) called Imparidigitates or Perissodactyles.

I need scarcely add that the law of correlation applied by Cuvier to the structures of ruminants entirely fails in the case of many extinct mammals discovered since Cuvier's days. Zadig would have been completely nonplussed if he could have seen the imprint of an Agriochœrid, a Unitatheriid or a Menodontid.

Another instance of failure of observation or memory nearly equally remarkable was published several years ago in various daily papers, and the following extract from one of them is given:

"FOUR INTELLIGENT PROOF-READERS.

"The question whether a proof-reader must have knowledge of the contents of any article that passes through his hands having been discussed in a German paper, the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, brings the following amusing contribution from Prof. Karl Vogt, the celebrated scientist, in illustration of this problem.

"When Edward Desor and myself were working with Agassiz at Neuenburg [Neuchâtel] my friend Desor was charged with describing certain fossil fish after the latter's notes. Desor used to dictate these descriptions to a young man who pretended to know all about it, while Desor counselled him to consider himself merely an unconscious tool. To sound the knowledge of his clerk, my colleague one day, under my connivance, dictated to his secretary the most absurd nonsense by interlacing the description of some fossil fish with the particular statement. 'This remarkable specimen differs from all others in the abnormal fact of having its head in the same spot where the others' tails are found.' The clerk took everything down as it came from the lips of my collaborator without rebelling. Desor, accidentally being called away, forgot his trick, and the manuscript went to the printing office. The proof was read by Dr. G., who had expressly been appointed to the post by Agassiz, and besides entrusted with the compilation of his 'Nomenclator.' Desor and myself read the second proofs; so did Agassiz, who placed his imprimatur upon them, but none of us four took notice of the nonsense it contained. The whole was printed, and only then, when the series was about to be sent

to the subscribers, my friend Desor remembered the trick he had played on his amanuensis. A special card had to be inserted in place of the objectionable passage. The conclusion may easily be drawn—four proof-readers had read the article without consciously taking knowledge of its contents."

I suppose that every author who has published much must have felt disgusted at finding some glaring error in a paper of which he had read the proofs and yet failed to detect. Such failure is not very surprising, however, as attention is concentrated on form and typography. But it is surprising that four men of such learning as Agassiz, Desor, '(G.)' and Vogt should all have passed unnoticed the evident absurdity quoted by Prof. Vogt. Perhaps the fact they did so may reconcile others to their blunders. I offer this balm (which has been of service to me!) for those interested. Yours truly,

THEO. GILL.

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1895.

THE GENERIC NAME ANISONYX PREOCCUPIED.

IN the first number of the new series of SCIENCE (Vol. I., No. 1, Jan. 4, 1895, 18–19) I called attention to the fact that the generic name *Anisonyx* of Rafinesque (1817) antedates *Spermophilus* of Cuvier by eight years, and seemed to be the earliest available name for the ground squirrels. Fortunately, however, *Anisonyx* is preoccupied. In a rare work by Latreille entitled *Genera Crustaceorum et Insectorum*, and published in 1807, the name *Anisonyx* was proposed for a genus of Coleoptera, thus antedating Rafinesque's use of it by ten years.

C. HART MERRIAM.

CORRECTION.

IN the review of the Twenty-third Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Minnesota, etc., in SCIENCE of July 5, p. 23, first column, near top, the Keewatin rocks are referred to the Upper Algonkian, of the U. S. Geological Survey, whereas they should have been referred to the *Lower* division. EUGENE A. SMITH.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Les aurores polaires. By ALFRED ANGOT. Paris, Felix Alcan. 1895. Bibliothèque Scientifique Internationale. 230 pages with an appendix catalogue and many illustrations.

The well known meteorologist of the Bureau Central Météorologique takes occasion to say, in the introductory chapter of this book, that the lack of any volume in French dealing exclusively with the aurora, since the time of Bravais, 1839, was a prime consideration in the issue of this volume. Information concerning the aurora had to be sought in stray notes, miscellanies, etc. Our author attempted a partial remedy by contributing in 1882 to 'La lumiére électrique' a series of ten papers giving a general view of our knowledge of the aurora; and the present volume consists practically of these ten papers expanded and brought up to date. Appearing in 1895, some mention of Lemstrom's 'l'Aurore boreale' (1886) and Paulsen's 'Contribution a notre connaissance de l'aurore' (1889) might have appropriately been made; and the omission is the more noticeable in that the former work is referred to in the chapter on the physical character of the aurora.

The illustrations are chiefly reproductions of sketches made by French observers in high latitudes; but it must be confessed that sketches made in 1839, 1870 and 1879 seem a trifle antiquated. No mention is made of the fact that the aurora has been photographed. Tromholt made an attempt as early as 1885 to do this. Very fair photographs considering the conditions were obtained in 1892 by Dr. Martin Brendel and Herr O. Baschin at Bossekop.

The form and appearance of auroras, their physical character, frequency, relation to