

SCIENCE

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MUSEUM METHODS.

THE EXHIBITION OF FOSSIL VERTEBRATES.

THE exhibition of fossil vertebrates is a subject that may be treated from various points of view, but the purpose of the present paper is to deal with it from the standpoint of a vertebrate zoölogist, and to discuss the question what should be the relationship between the sections of a museum devoted to the exhibition of living and extinct animals. That there is, or should be, a very obvious connection between these two sections of a great museum is undeniable, although the relationship is generally ignored and, as Prof. Flower wrote in regard to the collections of the Royal College of Surgeons: "The specimens continued to be divided primarily, not according to their zoölogical or anatomical relations, but by a most inconvenient and artificial system, according as the animals from which they were derived lived before or after a particular period of the world's history."