

in which it came. In his nearly sixty years of continuous public service he achieved a distinction in his profession of which his corps may well be proud, and all who have enjoyed personal relations with him will hold him in loving remembrance. M.

#### ZOOLOGICAL NOTES.

##### THE GENERIC NAMES ICTIS, ARCTOGALE AND ARCTOGALIDIA.

IN my Synopsis of the Weasels of North America, published in *North American Fauna*, No. 11, June, 1896, I adopted the subgenus *Ictis* of Kaup, 1829, for the ordinary weasels. This name, however, is untenable for the weasels, being antedated by *Ictis* Schinz, 1824. Schinz, in his 'Naturgeschichte und Abbildungen der Säugethiere,' published at Zurich in 1824 (p. 110), gave the name *Ictis* to the Binturong (*Ictis albifrons*), which of course renders it subsequent use for a different group impossible.

The subgenus of weasels to which I applied the name *Ictis* Kaup takes the name *Arctogale* Kaup, 1829, with *Putorius erminea* as the type species. This use of *Arctogale* by Kaup, as stated in my Synopsis of the Weasels already referred to (p. 9), precludes its subsequent use by Peters and Gray (1864), and later authors for the Palm Civets, a genus of the family *Viverridae*, for which latter genus I propose the new name *Arctogalidia*, the type species as before being *A. trivirgata*.

C. HART MERRIAM.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

##### WOMAN IN SOCIOLOGY.

THE *Revue de Sociologie* for 1896 (No. 7) has a detailed report of the 'Congrès féministe' held at Paris last summer, well worth reading by those interested in the sociological aspect of the 'woman question,' as presented by women themselves.

The crucial question of marriage was dis-

cussed amply, the general tendency being to discard it altogether in favor of free unions, which, it was argued, would generally be monogamic and lasting, in a ripened society.

The closely related question of prostitution was actively debated. Its legal regulation was condemned for many reasons, especially that men have no right to legislate as to what a woman shall do in that respect. The prevailing view was "that a woman should be absolutely free to sell herself or not, as she may choose," to quote the words of one of the (female) speakers.

Co-education proved a stumbling block, strange as that may seem to us. It was considered dangerous and likely to develop mannish women. All agreed that full civil and political rights should be given to women.

##### ANCIENT MAN IN ENGLAND.

THE President of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain, Mr. E. W. Brabrook, published an article in *The Archaeological Journal* for September last, touching upon the antiquity of the remains of man in Kent. It will be remembered that the stone relics from the chalk plateau of that region were closely studied by the late Sir Joseph Prestwich and others. They are very rude and geologically apparently very ancient, some claiming that they must be pre-glacial. Mr. Brabrook is of opinion that whenever it was that man first discovered the art of chipping stone, it certainly originated in Kent, 'and by all that we can judge from, as early in Kent as anywhere.'

This assertion is none too bold. It does not mean that from Kent this simple art spread over the world, but that in that locality we can trace a real beginning of human culture. Whether it can be followed in an uninterrupted development down to historic times, he considers more doubtful.