

case when a piece of hide one centimeter square gave a distinct test by the bacteriological test, while five times the quantity failed to respond to Marsh's test. It would be interesting to compare this test with that of Reinsch, which has been found by me decidedly sharper and more to be depended on than that of Marsh.

J. L. H.

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES.

DR. CARLOS BERG notes several occurrences of the Antarctic seal, *Lobodon carcinophaga*, well to the northward of its usual habitat, one example having been taken in the La Plata, near Puerto de Ensenada, and another to the northward of Buenos Ayres in lat. $34^{\circ} 28' S$. This latter was a male captured in June, 1898, and must, from its size, 2.65 meters long, have been an adult animal.

THE *Zoological Record*, Vol. 34, containing a list of the zoological papers which appeared in 1897, has just been issued. Amid the rumors of the many good things that the working zoologist is soon to enjoy, it is a great satisfaction to continue to receive this valuable publication of the Zoological Society of London. Surely, 'A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.'

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

ANOTHER MEXICAN CODEX.

FROM a personal letter I learn that Dr. Nicolas Leon, well known for his many contributions to Mexican archæology and history, has discovered a hitherto unknown Mexican Codex in hieroglyphic characters, of which he will soon publish a photo-lithographic reproduction. It dates from the year 1545, and relates to the tributes paid by the town of Tepeai. The proper names of places are written in the usual rebus, or 'ikonomatic' method. They present combinations not found in any of the other known documents of the kind, and some of them are quite puzzling. This discovery will make a welcome addition to the comparatively few specimens of the Mexican graphic method at that date.

THE PROGRESSIVE WOMAN.

A LITTLE book, 'Le Feminisme,' published lately in Paris (Colin et Cie, 1898), has some in-

terest to the student of sociology. Its author, Mlle. Kaethe Schirmacher, gives an accurate sketch of the advance of womankind in social position throughout the world of civilization, beginning with the United States and passing to France, Great Britain, Sweden and Russia. Of our own country she says in her preface that she speaks from personal knowledge. We are gratified, therefore, to know that the characteristics of American women are courage (*hardiesse*), the spirit of initiative and capacity for organization. In France 'feminism' has been principally cultivated by the men, not the women; in Sweden very few women are interested in it, though the King favors it; in England it is opposed by the learned institutions, while in Russia they all favor it. On the whole, the outlook for full and equal rights and opportunities for her sex the author considers cheering.

THE SEAT OF THE SOUL.

UNDERSTANDING by 'soul' the highest intellectual faculties, it is worth considerable trouble to find out where these functions are located. Savages believe that it is in the liver or the heart; cynics suggest that it is in the stomach; phrenologists place them in the front part of the brain; but the most advanced physiologists are now inclined to teach that the posterior cerebral lobes have the highest intellectual value. Dr. C. Clapham's arguments to this effect are quoted with approval in the *Centralblatt für Anthropologie* (1898, Heft 4). These arguments are that man has the most highly developed posterior lobes, and this is conspicuous in men of marked ability and in the highest races. In idiots the lobes are imperfectly developed, and in chronic dementia these portions of the brain reveal frequent lesions. Numerous authorities are quoted in support of these and allied statements.

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COLLECTIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A PRELIMINARY Catalogue of the Collections of Natural History and Ethnology in the Provincial Museum, Victoria, British Columbia, 196

pages, 1898, is now being issued. As it deals only with the British Columbian specimens of the exhibition series, the value of the entire collection is much greater than is suggested by the Catalogue.

The list of mammals includes information as to the source of each specimen and the distribution of the species. The catalogue and index of birds, including 339 species and sub-species, is of all those in British Columbia, while the species not represented in the Museum collection are specially indicated by a check mark. It is this mark which will enable the friends of the institution to devote their energies to securing the desired lacking specimens. Very little is known of the birds of the northeastern part of the province. It thus presents an attractive field for research. There are seven cases of bird groups. The catalogue of the study series of 740 bird skins is not published, but it is available to students. The eggs are listed.

Reptilia, Batrachia, Tunicata, Lepidoptera, Beterocera, Coleoptera, Crustacea, Echinodermata, Mollusca are all catalogued. The lists of fish, trees and plants, algæ and the paleontological specimens are extensive.

The ethnological collection is classified in the list under ceremony, dress, amusement, craniology, houses, monuments, fishing, war, travel, domestic utensils and industries. In the introduction to the list of ethnological specimens the visitor is cautioned against assuming that the Indians of British Columbia resemble the Japanese or were influenced by foreigners prior to European contact. Their difference from the Indians of the Plains is mentioned.

It is gratifying to have accessible so complete a list of the natural history and ethnological specimens of the whole province of British Columbia and to know where most of the specimens listed are available.

HARLAN I. SMITH.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY has appointed as civilian members of a commission to report on the condition of the Philippine Islands: President Schurman, of Cornell University; Professor Dean C. Worcester, associate professor of zoology in the University of Michigan, and Colonel

Denby, for many years United States Minister to China. President Schurman, who is chairman of the commission, has been granted leave of absence until the end of the present year, and Professor T. F. Crane will during the year perform the duties of President.

THE sculptor Herr Ernst Herter has completed the statue of von Helmholtz, which is to be erected in the court of the University of Berlin, between the statues of the two Humboldts. The monument will be unveiled in the spring.

SENATOR PLATT, of Connecticut, has been appointed a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution in the room of the late Senator Morrill, of Vermont.

FATHER RODERIGUES DE PRADA has been made Director of the Observatory of the Vatican.

M. PANAS has been installed as President of the Paris Academy of Medicine, while M. Marey, the physiologist, becomes Vice-President.

THE following officers have been nominated by the French government for its 'Bureau des longitudes': President, M. Poincaré; Vice-President, M. Faye; Secretary, M. Lippmann.

PROFESSOR A. A. MICHELSON, of the University of Chicago, will give, during March, at Boston, a course of Lowell lectures on 'Light Waves and their Uses.'

Nature states that the recent retirement of Sir John Evans from the Treasurership of the Royal Society, after a period of service of twenty years, has given an opportunity for Fellows of the Society to show their appreciation of the efficient manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. It is proposed to have his portrait painted in oil colors, and to hang it on the walls of the Society's apartments at Burlington House.

THE honors annually conferred on New Year's Day in Great Britain include a K.C.B. on Professor W. C. Roberts-Austin, professor of metallurgy in the Royal College of Science, and a K.C.M.G. on Mr. W. T. Thistleton-Dyer, Director of the Kew Botanic Gardens. Sir Henry Thompson, a surgeon, who has also painted