

belief underlying the custom being the characteristic notion that the powers of the consumed are thereby conveyed to the consumer. A related belief finds expression among the same people in the practice of opening the abdomen of an enemy killed in battle, extracting the caul fat and anointing with it the body of the victor, the ceremony taking place while the body of the victim is still warm, or, if practicable, before his death. In all cases, of anthropophagy the skins were carefully removed, dried, and then hung in high trees to be blown about by the winds.

W J M.

PROPOSED INSCRIPTION FOR THE STATUE  
OF DARWIN.

WE recently quoted from the London *Academy* inscriptions proposed for the statue of Darwin. Mr. Edward Montgomery, of Hemstead, Texas, suggests the following substitute :

Charles Darwin, whose painstaking biological investigation has demonstrated the developmental ascent of lowest to highest forms of life, proving Evolution to be the master-key to the secrets of nature, and opening to striving humanity the inspiring prospect of natural perfectibility.

We have also received from 'Milner Kenne' the following sonnet :

CHARLES DARWIN.

Father of Science, versed in Nature's lore,  
Toilsome unraveller of her mystic laws,  
Tracing by painful thought effect to cause  
Till, like Columbus, thou new worlds explore ;  
Say, shall we ever see thy equal more ?  
Modest as great, yet fearless without pause,  
Careless alike of censure or applause,  
Steering still onward to the unknown shore.  
To thy keen sight, thy patient thought and clear,  
The newer science owes nativity.  
Thy sunlike mind bids ignorance disappear  
Till Nature's wonders seem to mirror thee,  
And to us mourning say in words of cheer,  
*Si monumentum quaeris, aspice !*

THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

THE following circular letter has been sent by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to officers of the army serving in the Philippines, Cuba, Porto Rico and Hawaii and on other outside stations :

The Secretary, on behalf of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and with the permission of the Honorable the Secretaries of State, of War and of the Navy, calls the attention of officers of the United States on foreign stations to the fact that there is at the capital a National Zoological Park, established by an Act of Congress approved April 30, 1890, which provides :

That the National Zoological Park is hereby placed under the direction of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, who are authorized to transfer to it any living specimens, whether of animals or plants now or hereafter in their charge ; to accept gifts for the Park at their discretion, in the name of the United States ; to make exchanges of specimens, and to administer the said Zoological Park for the advancement of science and the instruction and recreation of the people.

That the heads of the executive departments of the government are hereby authorized and directed to cause to be rendered all necessary and practicable aid to the said Regents in the acquisition of collections for the Zoological Park.

This Park, of which some idea may be formed by the accompanying map and illustrations, has been established in an unusually beautiful site near the city of Washington. It is intended to form here a representative national collection which, while especially rich in our native American animals, shall also contain specimens from all parts of the world, and shall be to America what the zoological gardens at London, Paris and Berlin are to their respective countries.

For several years Congress made no appropriation for the purchase of animals, and the Park is still largely dependent upon gifts to increase the collection, which is far from adequate as an exhibit in a national institution.

If officers stationed abroad who may be interested in animal life would bear in mind the necessities of the Park many additions could be made to the collection. Almost any foreign animals would be gladly received.

Expenses of boxing and of land transportations, where necessary, will always be paid by the Zoological Park.

Purchase of animals can be made only in exceptional cases, but if the opportunity for any especially desirable acquisition arises the Secre-