THE PROPER NAME OF THE ATLANTIC BOTTLENOSE
WHALE.

THE binomial long applied to the 'bottle-nose' of the Atlantic Ocean and currently accepted by modern authors is *Hyperoodon rostratus* (Muller), described and named *Balœna rostrata* by him in 1776 in the 'Zool. Dan. Prodr.,' p. 7. This appears to be antedated six years by *Balœna ampullata*, a name proposed for the same animal by John Reinhold Forster in the 'Linnæan Travels' [Kalm], 1770, Vol. 1, p. 18, footnote. In this Forster criticizes Kalm for calling the 'bottle-nose' a dolphin, because 'it has no teeth in its mouth as all the fish of that class have.' He then refers to "Mr. Pennant's 'British Zoology,' Vol. 3, p. 43, where it is called the beaked whale and very well described," adding, "a drawing is seen in the explanatory table, n. 1. Perhaps it would not be improper to call it *Balœna ampullata* F." In the 1812 edition of Pennant's 'British Zoology,' Vol. 3, p. 85, this 'beaked whale' or 'bottle head' is properly classed under Lacepede's genus *Hyperoodon*. From the foregoing I conclude the proper name of this whale to be *Hyperoodon ampullatus* (Forster).   SAMUEL N. RHOADS.

AUDUBON, N. J.,
    March 19, 1902.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

LOSS OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES BY
LIGHTNING.

THE Weather Bureau has, since 1890, conducted a statistical inquiry into the number of deaths and of injuries caused by lightning in the United States. This work has been carried on up to the close of 1900, when it was discontinued. During the year 1900, 713 persons were killed by, or received fatal injuries through, lightning. Of this number 291 persons were killed in the open, 158 in houses, 57 under trees, and 56 in barns. The circumstances attending the deaths of the remaining 151 are not known. During the same year 973 persons were more or less injured by lightning strokes. On the average, it is probable that from 700 to 800 lives are lost each year by lightning in the United States. Tabulating the average mortality resulting

from lightning according to geographic districts subject to the same, or nearly the same, atmospheric conditions, it appears that the greatest number of fatal cases occurred in the Middle Atlantic States; the next greatest in the Ohio Valley and Tennessee, with the middle and upper Mississippi Valley a close third. The greatest number of deaths in any single state during the five years 1896-1900 occurred in Pennsylvania (186), followed by Ohio with 135, and Indiana, Illinois and New York with 124 each.

In the Gulf States the average number of deaths due to lightning per unit area (10,000 square miles) is 1. In New England, with probably half as many thunderstorms, the death rate per unit area is 2. In the latter district the death rate per million of rural inhabitants is nearly double that per million of total population, and the same holds true of the densely populated districts of the Middle Atlantic States. Considering both unit area and density of population, the greatest mortality by lightning is in the Ohio Valley and the Middle Atlantic States. If, however, the density of population alone be considered, it is in the upper Missouri valley and the middle Rocky Mountain region.

The foregoing facts are taken from Bulletin 30, of the Weather Bureau ('Loss of Life in the United States by Lightning,' by A. J. Henry), in which will be found further interesting information, as well as a chart—the first of its kind for this country—showing the geographic distribution of deaths by lightning in the United States.

TEMPERATURE, RAINFALL AND SUN-SPOTS IN
JAMAICA.

MAXWELL HALL returns to the subject of the relation between sun-spots, temperature and rainfall in a recent paper entitled 'Temperatures in Kingston, Jamaica, and the Connection between Sun-Spot Frequency, the Mean Maximum Temperature, and the Rainfall in Jamaica' (Kingston, 1902, 12 pp.). Using the observations of 1881–1898, inclusive, and taking the mean maximum temperatures of any three years as the mean of the middle year, the plotted curve of mean maximum