

THE RANGE OF THE FOX SNAKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Cope (*Rept. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 1898, p. 832) gives the range of the fox snake, *Coluber vulpinus* B. & G., as 'distributed over the northwest of the eastern district, not being known from east of Illinois or south of the mouth of the Missouri River.' Dr. J. A. Allen in 1869 (*Proc. Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 12, 171 ff.) mentioned a specimen of this snake taken in the vicinity of Wenham, Mass., in 1861. Cope apparently overlooked this record. Eckel, in his recently published 'Catalogue of the Reptiles of New York' (Bull. 51, N. Y. State Museum), gives it a doubtful place on the strength of this record of Dr. Allen's.

Aside from this single case, no record has been made, to my knowledge, of the occurrence of this snake in any state east of Illinois with the exception of Ohio. In the vicinity of Sandusky, east and west along the lake, the fox snake is found. On Cedar Point—a tongue of sand twelve miles long and a few hundred yards wide at best—several specimens have also been taken. The specimens from these localities are in the Zoological Museum of the Ohio State University.

Owing to the fact that several species of plants and animals of pronounced western type have been found in this region, it appears that this may form an eastward arm of the zoogeographical as well as the phytogeographical district to the west. Hence, any information as to the occurrence of the fox snake east of Illinois will be welcomed by the undersigned.

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A PROPOSED AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

DURING the Convocation Week of 1901-1902, there were meetings of the Section of Anthropology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Folk-Lore Society, and several other organizations, in Chicago. In connection with these meetings there was, on December 31, a conference of committees on the needs of

American anthropology appointed by the Anthropological Society of Washington, the American Ethnographical Society, and the Section of Anthropology of the A. A. A. S. The participants in the conference were Franz Boas, Stewart Culin, Roland B. Dixon, George A. Dorsey, Livingston Farrand, J. Walter Fewkes, George G. MacCurdy, W. J. McGee, Frank Russell, and Frederick Starr. Although little constructive action was taken at Chicago, the conference resulted in a general feeling that more definite cooperation among American anthropologists would be advantageous.

Subsequently several of the conferees engaged in correspondence pursuant to the deliberations in Chicago, which soon served to bring out and strengthen the feeling that some sort of organization was needful; and in the course of a few weeks preliminary steps were taken toward the formation of an association of American anthropologists of national character. The most important action was the selection of a number of prospective founders of the proposed association, from whom expressions were invited. Most of the anthropologists so addressed have replied, and nearly all of these decidedly favor organization. Accordingly, arrangements have been made for a founding meeting, to be held at Pittsburgh in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in the audience room of Bellefield Church, on Monday, June 30, at 2 o'clock P.M. Provisional arrangements are also under way for a scientific meeting of the new organization in connection with Section H (Anthropology) of the A. A. A. S. on Wednesday, July 2.

The most serious question brought out in the preliminary correspondence and conferences is, Shall the new association be strictly professional or of more general character? With the view of holding the settlement of this question in abeyance pending the completion of the organization, it was thought better by the Chicago conferees to limit invitations to the founding meeting to about forty of the leading anthropologists of the country. The invitations are now being sent