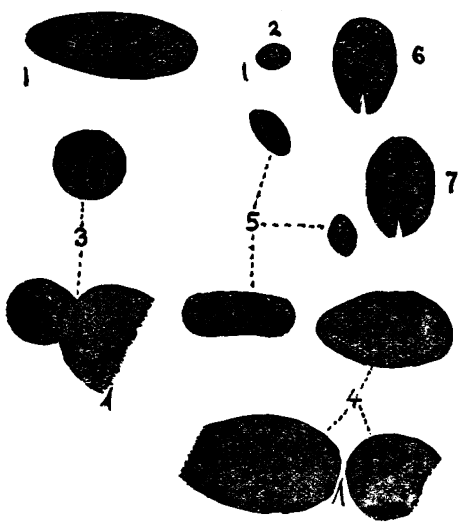
probably in blood. To my surprise, I found the spot in every one of the seven babies of pure Indian blood. It seems, however, to be far more evanescent among the Mayas than among the Japanese and other populations, being rarely found in individuals of more than ten months of age. Three babies, less than ten months in age, but of mestizo (mixed-blood) parentage, showed no trace of the spot. The spot is variable in size, shape and position, but it is always in the sacral region; in color it is blue or a bluish-purple; it gradually disappears and two or three of the cases seem to show an original single spot broken up into separate blotches which lose distinctness.



The sizes and shapes of the spots observed are accurately shown in the accompanying cut, reduced to one half the diameter. The notes made regarding each are here presented:

1. Boy; eight months. Spot well marked; dark purple; median, three inches above the anal fold. An older brother, two years old, showed no sign of the spot, but his mother says he was equally well marked at birth.

2. Girl; one year. Spot well defined; just to the right of the upper end of the fold.

3. Girl; three months. Two faint and badly defined spots just to the left of the upper end of the anal fold; a darker and better defined spot above.

4. Boy; two months. Two faint and badly defined spots, one on either side of the anal fold; a third, darker and better defined, above.

5. Boy; ten months. Only the lower of three spots is fairly defined, and it is faint, like a disappearing bruise; the other two are fainter. The three look like the separated parts of a spot which is disappearing. The group is median and located a little above the anal fold.

6, 7. Boys; twins of two months. Spots are pale blue but well defined; they are almost identical in form, size, color and position. They just overlap the upper end of the anal fold.

FREDERICK STARR.

February 6, 1903.

THE EGGS OF THE EASTERN ATLANTIC HAG-FISH, MYXINE LIMOSA *Gir.*

EGGS of a hag-fish from the Newfoundland banks were described by the present writer in 1900 (*Mem. N. Y. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. II., pp. 31–43) from specimens in the Verrill collection, Yale University. They were then looked upon as belonging to the common North Atlantic *Myxine glutinosa* Linn. Since that time, however, the eggs of five other species of myxinoids have been examined, and a fairly definite knowledge is at hand in the matter of the degree of variation in these eggs within specific limits. It follows from these studies that the differences between the eggs of *M. glutinosa* as described by Jensen and those of the Newfoundland form are too great (*op. cit.*, pp. 35, 42) to warrant the eggs of both types to be included under *Myxine glutinosa*. Accordingly I have come to the conclusion that we must consider the American specimens as probably representing *Myxine limosa* Girard, the common hag-fish of Maine. I would also note that a study of variation among myxinoids has recently led me to conclude with Mr. Garman that *Myxine limosa* is to be accepted, not as a variety of *M. glutinosa*, but as a valid species.

BASHFORD DEAN.

ORIGIN OF NAME MONOTREMES.

I HAVE been unable to find any reference to the early use of the now familiar name Monotremes, and the information may be of

use to some of your readers. I, therefore, give exact reference.

At the session in 'Thermidor, an 11 de la Republique' (1803), 'E. Geoffroy' [Saint Hillaire] presented an 'Extrait des observations anatomiques de M. Home, sur l'echidné,' which was published in the *Bulletin des Sciences de la Société Philomathique* (Tome III., p. 225–227—misprinted 125–127—pl. 14–16). In this communication Geoffroy remarks that '*Ornithorhincus*' (*Ornithorhynchus*) and *Echidna,* though closely related, are generically distinct, but should be united in the same order ('*ordre*'). He reasons as follows:

"Mais, cependant, comme il est démontré, par la dissertation de M. Home, que ces deux genres s'appartiennent par un assez grand nombre de rapports, je les réunis dans le même ordre, sous le nom MONOTRÉMES, avec le caractère indicateur suivant: *Doigts onguiculés; point de véritables dents; un cloaque commun, versant à l'extérieur par une seule issue.*"

In this article was also published the name *Echidna setosa,* as is well known.

Rafinesque, in 1815, in the 'Analyse de la Nature' (p. 57), gave the Latin form Monotremia to the word, adopting it for his '16 famille' of mammals. THEO. GILL.

COSMOS CLUB.

CURRENT NOTES ON PHYSIOGRAPHY.

OVERTHRUST MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN MONTANA.

THE physiographic features that are associated with various stages of dissection of uplifted, folded or faulted structures are coming to be fairly well known; but the features resulting from the dissection of overthrust masses have as yet hardly gained recognition in systematic physiography. Hence the importance that attaches to certain passages in an account by Willis of the 'Stratigraphy and Structure, Lewis and Livingston ranges, Montana' (*Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.,* XIII., 1902, 305–352), where a great overthrust has carried a heavy and resistant series of nearly horizontal Algonkian strata more than seven miles eastward over the previously warped Cretaceous strata of the plains. The overthrust mass is now greatly denuded; castellated outliers and promontories stand forward between large embayments, and the embayments are drained eastward over the plains as if the original drainage of the overthrust mass (presumably westward) had been destroyed by the retrogression of the overthrust escarpment. Before the overthrust took place, the relatively weak strata of the plains had been worn down to a peneplain; and it is believed that the Algonkian strata further west had at the same time been reduced to moderate relief. The general uplift associated with the overthrust exposed the plains to dissection, but remnants of their peneplain phase are still well preserved. The more active uplift of the overthrust raised the Algonkian strata to mountain height and allowed their deep dissection, but back of the Front ranges the subdued forms of the earlier cycle are still more or less preserved in the mountainous uplands at heights of 7,500 feet, where the general profile is independent of structure. In the front ranges, where the mountains rise to heights of 9,000 and 10,000 feet, revived erosion, by both water and ice, has caused so great a dissection that no trace is to be seen of whatever subdued forms may have existed before uplift. Here the very general association of the higher summits with anticlinal belts, and of the intermediate longitudinal valley with a shallow synclinal belt, suggests corrugation at as late a date as that of the overthrust by which the general uplift was produced. Strong erosion by heavy valley glaciers is inferred in the Front ranges, where high-cliffed amphitheatres holding lake basins are characteristic features. One of the most notable peculiarities of the district is the location of the continental divide at the eastern base of the mountains, where a branch of Flathead river (Columbia system) rises at the very margin of the plains in the pass that is followed by the Great Northern Railroad.

THE OASES OF SOUF AND M'ZAB.

THE dual character of geography is seldom better represented than in a study by Brunhes on 'Les oasis du Souf et du M'zab comme types d'établissements humains' (*La Géogr.,* V., 1902, 5–20, 175–195); that is, the physiographic environment and the organic response