These pots were buried December, 1902, on the Arlington farm of the United States Department of Agriculture, in a heavy clay soil at three different depths. Eight complete sets are covered to a depth of six or eight inches, such as would take place in deep ploughing. Twelve complete sets are buried at a depth of twenty inches, where they will be comparatively free from the action of frost. Twelve more complete sets are buried from three to three and one half feet, thus insuring fairly uniform conditions as to temperature, moisture, etc.

In all 32 complete sets or 3,584 pots have been buried. It is proposed to take up one of each of these sets from time to time and test for germination. The present plan is to make the tests at the end of one, two, three, five, seven, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, forty and fifty years. With this scheme the last set of those buried at a depth of six to eight inches will be taken up for test after the lapse of twenty years, and, indeed, it is quite probable that most of this series will have germinated or decayed long before this; in fact we feel reasonably sure that many will succumb during the first year. Similar results will undoubtedly be had from those buried at greater depths, though here vitality will be retained longer. Many, of course, will live for a number of years; on the other hand, it will be quite surprising if any respond to germination tests at the end of fifty years.

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SOME NEW GENERIC NAMES OF MAMMALS.

IN preparing an index of the genera of mammals, a number of names have come to light which have been previously used for other groups. Some of these names are in current use and apparently have no synonyms which can be substituted for them. The following new names are therefore proposed:

Eosaccomys—new name for *Saccostomus* Peters, 1846, which is preoccupied by *Saccostoma* Fitzinger, 1843, a genus of reptiles.

Eucervaria—new name for *Cervaria* Gray, 1867, which is preoccupied by *Cervaria* Walker, 1866, a genus of Lepidoptera.

Helicotragus—new name for *Helicophora* Weithofer, 1889, which is preoccupied by *Helicophora* Gray, 1842, a genus of Mollusca.

Lophocebus—new name for *Semnocebus* Gray, 1870, which is preoccupied by *Semnocebus* Lesson, 1840; a genus of lemurs.

Morenella—new name for *Morenia* Ameghino, 1886, which is preoccupied by *Morenia* Gray, 1870, a genus of chelonians.

Nannospalax—new name for *Microspalax* Nehring, 1898, which is preoccupied by *Microspalax* Trouessart, 1885, a genus of Arachnida.

Necronycteris—new name for *Necromantis* Weithofer, 1887, which is preoccupied by *Necromantes* Gistel, 1848, a genus of Mollusca.

Neocothurus—new name for *Cothurus* Palmer, 1899, which is preoccupied by *Cothurus* Champion, 1891, a genus of Coleoptera.

Octodontomys—new name for *Neoctodon* Thomas, 1902, which is preoccupied by *Neoctodon* Bedel, 1892, a genus of Coleoptera.

Tapirella—new name for *Elasmognathus* Gill, 1865, which is preoccupied by *Elasmognathus* Fieber, 1844, a genus of Hemiptera.

Tytthoconus—new name for *Microconodon* Osborn, 1886, which is preoccupied by *Microconodus* Traquair, 1877, a genus of Pisces.

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MUSEUM NOTES.

THE *Annual Report* of the director of the Carnegie Museum shows good progress in various directions, but particularly in the line of paleontology, where valuable additions have been made in the shape of specimens of the larger dinosaurs and of Oligocene mammals. Important additions have been made to the entomological collections, which are now among the most important in the United States, and there has been obtained by purchase the only specimen of the almost extinct *Rhinoceros simus* in this country. Pending the important additions to the museum building which are to be made the director pro-

poses to meet immediate wants by the erection of a laboratory building in which the work of preparing and mounting material for exhibition can be carried on.

The report on the 'Prize Essay Contest' for 1901 shows that this is an effectual method for attracting the public school children to the museum.

Accompanying the report of the director is a handsomely printed pamphlet giving an account of the seventh annual celebration of Founder's Day and containing the addresses delivered on that occasion by Whitelaw Reid, R. W. Gilder and Joseph Jefferson.

It may be added that parts three and four, completing the first volume of the *Annals of the Carnegie Museum,* have just been issued.

The *Annual Report* of the director of the Field Columbian Museum for 1901–1902 notes at the outset that the building has about reached the limits of repair. It is to be hoped that an arrangement may soon be made by which the large and valuable collections of this institution may be properly housed. The museum did much field work during the past year, resulting in important accessions to the divisions of anthropology, zoology and paleontology. The attendance has increased and the series of excellent lectures were well attended, both these facts marking a growing interest of the public in the museum.

From a comparison of reports it would seem that museum lectures are vastly better attended in the United States than in Great Britain, but the lavish use of lantern slides here doubtless accounts for a part of the difference. Like the Carnegie Museum, the Field Columbian Museum makes a direct effort to attract the pupils of the public schools, and with equal success.

Of particular interest are the descriptions, with illustrations, showing methods of installation of corals, paleontological specimens and economic collections in the department of botany. It is something of a question if the new cases are not a little too severely simple in their design, for while the prime object of a case is to protect its contents, a case is unavoidably a feature of the hall containing it. It would, therefore, seem to call for some architectural treatment, and the total abolition of cornice and sash moldings gives a case too much the appearance of a mere box.

Besides the illustrations referred to there is a plate of a group of zebras, and views of the groups recently completed by Mr. Akeley, showing the Virginia deer in spring, summer, autumn and winter. These have been in preparation for a long time past, and are unquestionably the most elaborate of the kind anywhere, and the most successful of attempts to imitate nature in museums. F. A. L.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

The 'Thirty-Fourth Annual Report' (that for 1902) of the American Museum of Natural History was placed in the hands of the officers of the Park Department on May 1. It includes, besides the president's report, the financial statement for the year, the list of accessions, and lists of the members, fellows and patrons of the museum.

A summary of the president's report is as follows:

The timely increase on the part of the city of its annual appropriation for maintenance (from $135,000 to $160,000) enabled the museum to complete its year's work without calling upon the trustees for additional funds. The city also appropriated $200,000 for a power and heating station.

Heretofore it has been necessary to borrow money at the beginning of each year to pay the current expenses for maintenance, pending the refunding of such sums by the city, but at the last annual meeting of the board of trustees one of its members very generously gave $15,000 to be used as a capital to meet the current bills, pending their repayment by the city, the only condition of the gift being that the treasurer's report should show a credit balance of $15,000 at the close of each year. The terms of the gift have been fully complied with.

At the annual meeting of the board of