

the throat could be inflated, for it is distended whenever the animal is excited. Late last year the scale-footed lizard (*Pygopus lepidopus*) was represented for the first time in the collection. Other specimens have recently been put out. In some respects these limbless lizards from the Australian region have a general resemblance to the British slow-worm, but the tail is exceedingly long and tapering, and the hind limbs are represented by two scale-like flaps of skin, closely adpressed to the side. These can be moved at will and contain the vestiges of the toe bones, which can be felt between the finger and thumb. In the sloths' house is an example of the Australian spiny anteater (*Echidna aculeata*), with the exception of the duck-billed platypus the lowliest of all mammals. It may be compared in appearance to a hedgehog, with long, strong spines and a beak-like snout about as long as that of the platypus, but tubular in shape. Its popular name is correct, so far as regards its food, which is obtained by the protrusion of the worm-like tongue, as is the case with the great anteater (*Myrmecophaga jubata*) of South America, examples of which are in the same house. There is, however, no close relationship, the former laying eggs, and having traces of a marsupial pouch, while the latter is a true mammal. Many authors reckon three species of spiny anteaters, according as there is more or less hair mixed with the spines, while others attribute this difference to the effect of the climate of Tasmania and New Guinea (where the more hairy forms occur) and claim that the examination of a large series of skins shows that the extremes grade into each other.

ENGLISH papers state that steps have been taken to begin immediately the construction of the section of the Cape-to-Cairo Railway between Wankie and the Zambesi at Victoria Falls and that 2,500 laborers will at once commence work on this section. Railhead will be at Wankie, about 200 miles northwest of Bulawayo, very shortly. With regard to other railways in Rhodesia, on the branch line between Bulawayo and Gwanda 31½ miles of rail have been laid of a total length of 104

miles. The Selukwe line will be finished at an early date, as the rails have already reached a point 16 miles from Gwelo and sufficient material is now on the spot for the completion of the branch. The removal of the light rails on the Vryburg-Mafeking section is rapidly proceeding, and, according to the latest advices, 42 miles out of the total 96 had been relaid with 60-pound rails.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Imperial Chinese University at Peking which abandoned its attempt to introduce European learning under the retrograde policy of the Dowager Empress has now been closed.

PROFESSOR J. MARK BALDWIN, of Princeton University, has been called to a new chair in philosophy and psychology in the Johns Hopkins University, where it is proposed to organize a university department in these subjects. Professor Baldwin will immediately enter upon his new duties, but it is expected that he will also give during the coming term certain senior and graduate courses at Princeton, where he may be addressed.

DR. E. W. SCRIPTURE, assistant professor of experimental psychology at Yale University, has resigned and is succeeded by Dr. Charles H. Judd, A.B. (Wesleyan), Ph.D. (Leipzig). Dr. Scripture is spending the year at Leipzig, where he is carrying on researches on the analysis of speech by means of gramophone records under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution.

DR. JOHN G. CURTIS, professor of physiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, has been elected acting dean of the college.

DR. AUGUSTUS POHLMAN has been appointed assistant professor of anatomy at the Johns Hopkins University.

At Leland Stanford Junior University, Dr. Edward C. Franklin, of the University of Kansas, has been appointed associate professor of organic chemistry, and Dr. J. R. Slonaker, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant professor of physiology.

M. LEBOEUF has been appointed professor of astronomy at the University of Besançon.