of the face and the swelling up of the hinder part of the skull are connected with the development of the heavy tusks and trunk of the present day elephant; but in *Paleomastodon* these structures were comparatvely small, and the animal must have presented much the appearance of a very large pig.

Peculiar interest attaches to the discovery of bones of a large Hyracoid about the size of a tapir, belonging to a new genus. It is only within recent years that fossil remains of this group of mammals, whose affinities have long been a puzzle to zoologists, have been described. Dr. Andrews relates the occurrence in these beds of four other species of *Hyraces;* and this fact would seem to indicate that the comparatively few and insignificant modern members of the group are the degenerate descendants of a once numerous stock which must at that time have been an important factor in the Ethiopian fauna.

The sands and clays in which these bones and fossilized trees are embedded in such abundance are evidence that in Eocene times this part of the Libyan Desert was the estuary of a great river, down which the carcasses of drowned animals, accompanied by big tree-trunks, were swept, and then buried in mud and sand.

Dr. Andrews also obtained a collection of specimens from the Pleistocene lake-beds of Birket-el-Kerun, including numerous flint implements and remains of an animal which he has identified as belonging to the African elephant (*Elephas Africanus*). The occurrence of elephant remains in this locality associated with flint implements is, as Dr. Andrews points out, very noteworthy, both as extending the known range of the African elephant and also as supplying a strong reason for regarding the implements as being of prehistoric age. Dr. Budge states that no representation of the elephant is met with on any of the early Egyptian monuments, which certainly would not be the case had the artists been familiar with the animal; and it is therefore probable that it became extinct in Egypt at some remote prehistoric period, when also the implements which were found with the remains must have been made.

The imposing-looking skull of *Arsinoitherium Zitteli* and specimens of *Paleomastodon* are now exhibited in the Central Hall of the Natural History Museum.

Mention may also be made here of other recent important additions to the exhibited collection in the gallery of fossil mammalia. These comprise a series of remains of mammals from the Lower Pliocene formation of Pikermi, near Athens, obtained during the excavations recently undertaken by the trustees at that place. The bones exhibited are only a small portion of the large collection secured by Dr. A. S. Woodward. They represent quadrupeds which were living in Greece in the Lower Pliocene period, when that country was connected by land with Asia and Africa, before the Mediterranean assumed its present form. Greece was then a land of forests, table-lands and lakes; and Pikermi is part of the bed of a silted-up lake, into which the bones of accidentally destroyed herds of quadrupeds were washed and buried. The remains shown at South Kensington belong to primitive elephants (*Mastodon*), rhinoceroses, three-toed horses (*Hipparion*), numerous antelopes, giraffes, pigs, hyenas and monkeys. Attention should be drawn to the instructive pieces of the bone-beds showing how the fossilized remains occur in the rock.

THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND.

THIS fund, which was established by Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of Stamford, Connecticut, 'for the advancement and prosecution of scientific research in its broadest sense,' now amounts to $26,000. As accumulated income will be available January next, the trustees desire to receive applications for appropriations in aid of scientific work. This endowment is not for the benefit of any one department of science, but it is the intention of the trustees to give the preference to those investigations *which can not otherwise be provided for,* which have for their object the advancement of human knowledge or the benefit of mankind in general, rather than to researches directed to the solution of questions of merely local importance.

Applications for assistance from this fund, in order to receive consideration, *must be accompanied by full information,* especially in regard to the following points:

1. Precise amount required. Applicants are reminded that one dollar ($1.00 or $1) is approximately equivalent to four English shillings, four German marks, five French francs, or five Italian lire.

2. Exact nature of the investigation proposed.

3. Conditions under which the research is to be prosecuted.

4. Manner in which the appropriation asked for is to be expended.

All applications should reach, before January 1, 1904, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

It is intended to make new grants in January, 1904.

The trustees are disinclined, for the present, to make any grant to meet ordinary expenses of living or to purchase instruments, such as are found commonly in laboratories. Decided preference will be given to applications for small amounts, and grants exceeding $300 will be made only under very exceptional circumstances.

(Signed)

HENRY P. BOWDITCH, *President,*
CHARLES S. RACKEMANN, *Treasurer,*
EDWARD C. PICKERING,
THEODORE W. RICHARDS,
CHARLES-SEDGWICK MINOT, *Secretary.*

September, 1903.

Grants made prior to 1900 have already been printed in SCIENCE. The following grants have since been made.

1900.

86. $200, to Dr. H. H. Field, Zürich, Switzerland, to aid in the publication of a card catalogue of biological literature.

87. $500, to S. H. Scudder, Esq., Cambridge, Mass., for the preparation of an index to North American Orthoptera.

88. $300, to Professor P. Bachmetjaw, Sofia, Bulgaria, for researches on the temperature of insects.

89. $250, to Dr. E. S. Faust, Strassburg, Germany, for an investigation of the poisonous secretion of the skin of Amphibia.

90. $250, to Professor Jacques Loeb, Chicago, Ill., for experiments on artificial parthenogenesis.

91. $650, to the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C., towards the expenses of three delegates to attend the conference of academies at Wiesbaden in October, 1899, to consider the formation of an International Association of Academies.

1901.

92. $150, to Professor E. W. Scripture, New Haven, Conn., for work in experimental phonetics.

93. $300, to Professor W. Valentiner, Heidelberg, Germany, for observations on variable stars.

94. $50, to A. M. Reese, Esq., Baltimore, Md., for investigation of the embryology of the alligator.

1902.

95. $125, to F. T. Lewis, M.D., Cambridge, Mass., for investigation of the development of the vena cava inferior.

96. $150, to Professor Henry E. Crampton, New York, for experiments on variation and selection in Lepidoptera.

97. $100, to Professor Frank W. Bancroft, Berkeley, Cal., for experiments on the inheritance of acquired characters.

98. $250, to Professor John Weinzirl, Albuquerque, N. M., for investigation of the relations of climate to the cure of tuberculosis.

99. $300, to Professor H. S. Grindley, Urbana, Ill., for investigation of the proteids of flesh.

100. $300, to Dr. Herbert H. Field, Zürich, Switzerland, to aid the work of the Concilium Bibliographicum. (An additional grant of $300 was made June, 1903.)

101. $250, to Dr. T. A. Jaggar, Cambridge, Mass., for experiments in dynamical geology.

102. $50, to Professor E. O. Jordan, Chicago, Ill., for the study of the bionomics of *Anopheles.*

103. $300, to Dr. E. Anding, Munich, Bavaria, to assist the publication of his work, 'Ueber die Bewegung der Sonne durch den Weltraum.'

104. $300, to Professor W. P. Bradley, Middletown, Conn., for investigations on matter in the critical state.

105. $300, Professor Hugo Kronecker, Bern, Switzerland, for assistance in preparing his physiological researches for publication.

106. $300, to Professor W. Valentiner, Heidelberg, Germany, to continue the work of Grant No. 93.