

after all, seem to be creodonts and not marsupials. Furthermore, light is also thrown on the numerous points of similarity between *Struthion* and the *Rheæ*, especially when it is remembered that a large ratite bird, *Erémopezus*, existed in the Eocene of Africa. As to the ungulates, it seems likely that the separation of the two areas took place when the main divisions were only just beginning to be differentiated, and that groups like the *Pyrotheria* and the *Archæohyracidae* are not ancestral to the *Proboscidea* and *Hyracoidea* of the old world, but more probably represent terms of partly parallel series which had a common ancestry on the common land-surface before the separation of the two regions took place. If this were so, we should expect to meet with a general resemblance between the various groups rather than a close similarity of structure, and this, in fact, is what we find. In the case of the occurrence of the primitive sirenian *Prorastomus* in the West Indies, and of the water-snake *Pterosphenus* in the Eocene beds of Alabama, it seems likely that these animals passed either along the southern coast of the Eocene Atlantic or across the bridge of shallow water between the chain of islands above referred to as probably lying between West Africa and Brazil.

The work is admirably printed and illustrated, and includes reference to all of the literature; and the author as well as the directors and trustees of the British Museum are greatly to be congratulated.

HENRY F. OSBORN.

*THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERY CONGRESS,
1908.*

At the Paris universal exposition of 1900 there was held an international congress of fisheries and pisciculture, a permanent committee on international fishery congresses was formed, and plans were laid for holding such congresses regularly in various countries. The first congress was under the presidency of Professor Edmond Perrier, director of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. The second congress met in St. Petersburg in 1902, under the presidency of Hon. Vladimir Weschniakow, secretary of state and president of the Russian Imperial Fishery Society. The last congress convened at Vienna in 1905 and was presided over by Professor

Dr. Franz Steindachner, director of the Imperial Museum of Natural History in Vienna. I attended that congress as the representative of the United States, and extended an official invitation to hold the next meeting in America in 1908, the invitation being unanimously accepted. The place of meeting is Washington, D. C., and the time is September 22 to 26 inclusive. It is a source of gratification to announce that the president of the next congress is Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, director of the American Museum of Natural History.

In connection with the congress there have been arranged a number of competitive awards for the best or most important investigations, discoveries, inventions, etc., relative to fisheries, aquiculture, ichthyology, fish pathology and related subjects during the years 1906, 1907 and 1908. The awards will be in the form of money; and, although the individual amounts are not large, it is hoped that the conferring of the awards by so representative a body will induce many persons to compete and will result in much benefit to the fisheries and fish culture. The following awards have thus far been provided, and others may be announced later:

By the American Fisheries Society: For a paper embodying the most important original observations and investigations regarding the cause, treatment and prevention of a disease affecting a species of fish under cultivation. \$100.

By the American Museum of Natural History: For an original paper describing and illustrating by specimens the best method of preparing fish for museum and exhibition purposes. \$100.

By Forest and Stream: For the best paper giving description, history and methods of administration of a water, or waters, stocked and preserved as a commercial enterprise, in which angling is open to the public on payment of a fee. \$50.

By the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences: For the best paper setting forth a plan for an educational exhibit of fishes, the species and specimens that should be shown, the method of arrangement, and suggestions for making such an exhibit instructive and attractive. \$100.

By the New York Aquarium: For an exposition of the best methods of combating fungus disease in fishes in captivity. \$150.

By the New York Botanical Garden: For the best essay on any interrelation between marine plants and animals. \$100.

By the Smithsonian Institution: For the best essay or treatise on 'International regulations of the fisheries on the high seas, their history, objects and results.' \$200.

By the Fisheries Company, New York City: For the best essay treating of the effects of fishing on the abundance and movements of surface-schooling fishes, particularly the menhaden and similar species, and the influence of such fishing on the fishes which may prey on such species. \$250.

By the United States Bureau of Fisheries: For a report describing the most useful new and original principle, method or apparatus to be employed in fish culture or in transporting live fishes (competition not open to employees of the bureau). \$200.

By the Wolverine Fish Company, Detroit, Michigan: For the best plan to promote the whitefish production of the Great Lakes. \$100.

By Mr. Hayes Bigelow, Brattleboro, Vermont, member of the American Fisheries Society: For the best demonstration, based on original investigations and experiments, of the commercial possibilities of growing sponges from eggs or cuttings. \$100.

By Hon. George M. Bowers, United States Commissioner of Fisheries: For the best demonstration of the efficacy of artificial propagation as applied to marine fishes. \$100.

By Dr. H. C. Bumpus: For an original and practical method of lobster culture. \$100.

By Mr. John K. Cheney, Tarpon Springs, Florida, member of the American Fisheries Society: For the best presentation treating of the methods of the world's sponge fisheries, the influence of such methods on the supply of sponges, and the most effective means of conserving the sponge grounds. \$100.

By Professor Theodore Gill, Smithsonian Institution: For the best methods of observing the habits and recording the life histories of fishes, with an illustrative example. \$100.

By Dr. F. M. Johnson, Boston, Mass., member of the American Fisheries Society: For the best demonstration of the comparative value of different kinds of foods for use in rearing young salmonoids, taking into consideration cheapness, availability and potentiality. \$150.

By the New York Academy of Sciences: For that contribution presented at the congress and

not provided for in the foregoing awards which is adjudged to be of the greatest practical importance to the fisheries or to fish-culture. \$100.

Further information concerning this matter will be furnished on application to the undersigned general secretary.

H. M. SMITH.

U. S. BUREAU OF FISHERIES,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

OF the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society of London, as divided about a year ago into two series, Vols. 76-77 of series 'A,' containing papers of a mathematical and physical character, and Vols. 76-77 of series 'B,' containing papers of a biological character, have now appeared, each running to about 600 pages royal octavo, with illustrations. A main object of this new arrangement was to render the proceedings more accessible to workers by placing the two groups of subjects on sale separately, at a stated price attached to each separate part of a volume when it first appears. Moreover, with a view to promoting the circulation of the complete series, it has been directed that a subscription paid in advance to the publishers at the reduced price of 15s. per volume for either series, shall entitle subscribers to receive the parts as soon as published, or else the volumes when completed, in boards or in paper covers, as they may prefer.

With a view to further increasing the accessibility of the various publications of the Royal Society, each number of proceedings now contains an announcement on the cover, of the more recent memoirs of the Philosophical Transactions as published separately in wrappers and the prices at which they can be obtained.

It is hoped that by this arrangement the difficulties which have been found to impede the prompt circulation of the journals of the society, which are of necessity published in a somewhat different manner from a regular periodical, may be finally removed.

THE AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

THE agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, as finally