

rapidly lost by the latter group, which had a much accelerated evolution." With this conclusion the trend of recent work on the Permian Tetrapoda by Case, Williston, Moodie and Broom, seems to be in accord.

WM. K. GREGORY

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE 508th regular meeting was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, February 22, 1913, with President Nelson in the chair and 76 persons present.

The program consisted of a lecture by Edmund Heller on "Hunting with Rainey in Africa." The communication was chiefly descriptive of the maps and numerous lantern slides exhibited and also of the physical features and vegetation of the country as well as the animals secured during the expedition.

THE 509th meeting was held March 8, 1913, with Vice-president Paul Bartsch in the chair and 37 persons present.

Under the heading "Brief Notes, etc.," Wm. Palmer exhibited the head of the small devil ray (*Mobula olfersi*) and a plaster cast made from the same, and explained the feeding habits of this fish. A. C. Weed gave some further account of its habits, and Theodore Gill added some historical notes about devil fishes.

Barton W. Evermann reported results of the sale of blue fox skins from the Pribilof Islands at Lampson's (London) auction of March 7. The 384 skins offered sold at an average price of \$56, the highest price being \$85.

The regular program consisted of two communications. J. W. Gidley gave an account of a fossil camel recently found in America north of the Arctic circle. The only bone found was a phalanx. The species was an extinct one and its occurrence so far north was regarded as further proof that there once existed land connection between the continents by way of Alaska. The paper was discussed by Messrs. Wilcox, O. P. Hay, Weed, Gill, Evermann, Lyon and others.

The second communication was by Paul Bartsch on "Some Remarkable Philippine Mollusks obtained by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries Expedition." Specimens of the mollusks described were exhibited by the speaker.

THE 510th meeting was held March 22, 1913, with Vice-president Bartsch in the chair and 50 persons present.

Barton W. Evermann reported the executive order of President Taft made March 3, 1913, setting aside the entire chain of the Aleutian Islands as a wild mammal and bird reservation. The reservation is to be under joint charge of the Departments of Agriculture and of Commerce.

A. D. Hopkins announced the recent organization of a new scientific society, The Society for the Advancement of Forest Entomology in America.

The regular program consisted of two communications:

Recent Progress in the Study and Culture of the Common Eel: HUGH M. SMITH.

This was a comprehensive outline of the recent discoveries concerning and the completed life history of the common eel. Statistics of the commercial uses of the eel and the methods employed abroad for its propagation and distribution were given. Numerous lantern slides were shown.

Tree-Shrews: MARCUS LYON, JR.

This paper was based upon a study of many specimens of these squirrel-like insect-eating animals. Of less than 800 known specimens in museums, the British Museum possesses 355, the U. S. National Museum 24, and about 100 are in other collections. The paper was illustrated by lantern slides. Messrs. Bartsch and Wm. Palmer took part in the discussion.

THE 511th meeting was held April 5, 1913, with President Nelson in the chair and 43 persons present.

Under the head of Brief Notes, Paul Bartsch reported observations on the habits of the two common toads of the District of Columbia, *Bufo americanus* and *Bufo fowleri*.

Henry Talbott made some remarks on the probable agency of man in the dispersion of animals during the later geological ages. The regular program consisted of two communications:

A Commercial Aspect of Paleontology: by a Layman: HENRY TALBOTT.

The Zoological Results of the Denmark Expedition to Northeast Greenland: FRITS JOHANSEN.

The speaker, who accompanied the expedition, gave an account of climatic conditions and the fauna and flora encountered. Mammals and birds received the principal attention. Maps and numerous lantern slides were used.

D. E. LANTZ,
Recording Secretary