

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1913

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
OLD AND NEW AIMS AND METHODS OF
MORPHOLOGY¹

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for
review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-
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"ADDRESS your audience about what you
yourself happen to be most interested in,
speak from the fullness of your heart and
make a clean breast of your troubles." That seemed good advice, and I shall endeavor to follow it, taking for my text old and new aims and methods of morphology, with special reference to resemblances in function and structure on the part of organs and their owners in the animal kingdom. First, however, allow me to tell you what has brought me to such a well-worn theme. Amongst the many impressions which it has been my good luck to gather during my travels in that enchanting country Mexico are the two following:

First, the poisonous coral snakes, *Elaps*, in their beautiful black, red and yellow garb; it varies in detail in the various species of *Elaps*, and this garb with most of the variations too, occurs also in an astonishing number of genera and families of semi-poisonous and quite harmless Mexican snakes, some of which inhabit the same districts. A somewhat exhaustive study of these beauties has shown incontestably that these often astoundingly close resemblances are not cases of mimicry, but due to some other cooperations.

Secondly, in the wilds of the state of Michoacan, at two places, about 20 and 70 miles from the Pacific coast, I myself collected specimens of *Typhlops* which Dr.

¹ Address of the president to the Zoological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Birmingham, 1913.