

in the age of onset is shown probably to have a merely statistical significance.

C. B. DAVENPORT: *Inheritance of Temperament.*

An analysis of matings between persons who have a prevailing elated and those who have a prevailing depressed temperament indicates that the temperament of the former is inherited as a simple dominant, that of the latter as a recessive, but not allelomorphic to elation. In  $F_2$  and later generations the zygotic combinations are complex, including elated, depressed, alternating, normal and intermediate grades. Thus with a knowledge of ancestry sufficient to infer the gametic composition of the parents the distribution of temperaments for the offspring may, within limits, be predicted.

G. H. PARKER: *The Fur-seal Herd of the Pribilof Islands.*

The Alaskan fur-seals are pelagic animals that, during the summer, come ashore on the Pribilof Island for the purpose of breeding. The adult males, or bulls, arrive on the islands in May and June followed by the females, or cows. A bull may have associated with him from one to over a hundred cows, and this assembly constitutes a harem. Each cow, shortly after her arrival, gives birth to one young seal, or pup, and soon thereafter becomes again pregnant. The period of gestation is a little less than a year. The seals in the main leave the islands for the open sea early in the autumn. In 1914 there were born on the Pribilof Island over 93,000 seals and the total herd was estimated to be slightly under 300,000, a fair increase over the former year. As there are about equal numbers of males and females born and as the average harem is composed of one male and about sixty females, there are under normal conditions a considerable number of excess males, the so-called idle bulls. The number of idle bulls is a measure of the lack of adaptation in the proportion of sexes and indicative of a certain inefficiency on the part of nature.

ARTHUR L. DAY,  
*Home Secretary*

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
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#### EBERHARD FRAAS

FROM Stuttgart comes the very sad news of the death upon March sixth of the very distinguished paleontologist, Dr. Eberhard Fraas, professor in the university and head of the

Royal Museum of Natural History. On the very day following, namely, March 7, the widow of Professor Fraas learned of the death of their only son, Hans Oscar Fraas, in the Argonne near Vauquois, on March 1. The young man was twenty-two years of age.

Eberhard Fraas was one of the most talented pupils of Karl von Zittel, at Munich, and was one of the ablest and broadest of the vertebrate paleontologists of Europe. Besides his explorations, chiefly in the marine and terrestrial Trias and Upper Permian of Württemberg, he traveled widely through other parts of Europe, and made an extensive journey accompanied by the writer through the Jurassic-Cretaceous exposures of the Rocky Mountain region. It was, however, his journey to the dinosaur beds of German East Africa some years ago which very seriously impaired his health and necessitated one or two surgical operations from which he never fully recovered, so that although a man of superb physique his death came at the early age of fifty-two.

He leaves as his monument great collections of vertebrate fossils, especially in the museum at Stuttgart, including the phytosaurs and carnivorous dinosaurs of the Trias and many of the very early and most rare of the Testudinata besides a superb collection of ichthyosaurs from Holzmaden, which he was the first to describe, and of the marine Crocodilia from the Jura.

Among the most important of his early contributions were those to the Labyrinthodonts and other giant Stegocephalia of the Permian. Among his latest was the description of the carnivorous dinosaurs of the Trias as well as the geological narrative of the journey to East Africa. All his papers are enlivened by a keen appreciation of the importance of adaptation and of the adaptive significance of the various types of structure, one of his principal contributions in this line being his interpretation of the adaptive evolution of the ichthyosaurs from terrestrial to aquatic life, which was facilitated by the study of his unrivaled collections.

His death is a loss not only to the Fatherland but to the whole world of vertebrate pale-

ontology, for he was one of the most active and honored members of the new Society of Paleontologists which was recently formed in Germany.

His nature was most genial and those who had the privilege of journeying with him in the field will most keenly sorrow over his untimely death.

To the widow who is suffering this sudden and double bereavement all the friends and admirers of Eberhard Fraas in this country will extend their most heartfelt sympathy.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
April 5, 1915

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*THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND  
GENERAL GORGAS<sup>1</sup>*

THE Rockefeller Foundation has invited General Gorgas to become a permanent member of its staff in the capacity of general adviser in matters relating to public sanitation and the control of epidemics. The trustees of the foundation have for some time been aware of General Gorgas's strong belief in the feasibility of completely eradicating yellow fever from the face of the earth.

During the two years of the foundation's existence the attention of the trustees has been chiefly given to problems of public health, including the control of epidemics and the need of a competent adviser and executive in this field has been strongly felt. When in cooperation with the American Red Cross the foundation undertook the important task of helping the Serbian government to control the epidemic of typhus and the threatened epidemic of cholera the trustees again naturally thought of General Gorgas as a man preeminently fit to be of service in this emergency, and at a meeting held in New York last week they decided to make him a definite offer. This offer is now taken under consideration, and he will doubtless communicate his decision within a few days.

The Foundation's invitation contemplates his retiring from active service, as he is now

<sup>1</sup> A statement made by Mr. Jerome D. Greene, secretary of the foundation.

entitled to at any time, but it does not contemplate his resignation from the army unless he should be assigned to duties of such a nature as to be incompatible with the regulations affecting retired officers. Such a duty would be involved in his going to Serbia at the present time, which he could do as a representative of the Rockefeller Foundation, but not as an officer on the retired list of the army. The sanitary commission of the American Red Cross has actually been sent to Serbia in charge of Dr. Richard P. Strong, of the Harvard Medical School, as director. The Rockefeller Foundation is cooperating with the American Red Cross in the support of this expedition, and if General Gorgas should accept the Foundation's offer he will doubtless be largely influential in determining the nature and extent of its participation in the work.

In justice to General Gorgas, it should be stated that there is no foundation whatever for the statement that he is to receive a salary of \$50,000. The offer of the Rockefeller Foundation includes a moderate salary and the assurance of the usual allowance in the event of resignation or death. If the offer proves attractive to General Gorgas it will be because of his sympathy with the general aims of the foundation in regard to public health and his belief that the resources placed at his disposal will enable him to render a large service to humanity along the lines of his professional experience and ambition.

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*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS*

At the meeting of the American Philosophical Society, to be held at Philadelphia on April 22, 23 and 24, a long and important program of scientific papers will be presented. An account of the meeting, with abstracts of the papers, will be published in *SCIENCE*.

A TESTIMONIAL banquet will be tendered Dr. Abraham Jacobi by the medical profession, his friends and admirers, under the auspices of the Bronx Hospital and Dispensary, on May 6, at the Hotel Astor, on the occasion of the eighty-fifth anniversary of his birth.

THE honorary freedom of the Apothecaries' Company, London, has been conferred upon