

Mosquitoes of North and Central America and the West Indies, published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and in that connection observations of a somewhat similar character by several other authors are mentioned (see pages 126-129, Vol. I. of the Monograph).

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THE WORKS OF AMEGHINO

THE Minister of Public Works of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic, is financing the publication of a complete edition of the scientific writings and correspondence of Florentino Ameghino (1854-1911) the distinguished South American paleontologist. The editorial work has been undertaken by Alfredo J. Torcelli, and Volumes I. and II. have been issued; though printed in 1913-14 they have just been received. Volume III. will be devoted to "The Antiquity of Man in La Plata," originally issued in two volumes in 1880-81.

The publication of such a work, stupendous as it is, will prove of inestimable value to those workers who entered the field after Ameghino had published his first papers, copies of which are rarely found in an ordinary scientific library. His writings number 179 essays and books written in Spanish, French and English; some of them large volumes. Ameghino was a voluminous writer and he seldom published short papers. While the number of papers is not large compared to some European writers; Hermann Schaaffhausen for instance, wrote 314 contributions along the lines of anthropology; yet in content they compare favorably with the productions of any one scientific writer of modern times.

The first volume is entitled "Vida y Obras del Sabio," an octavo of 391 pages, printed on a poor quality of paper, and containing a complete account of the life and activities of this noted South American scholar. There is likewise appended a description of the elaborate funeral ceremonies with which his native city mourned the loss of this eminent man.

The second volume with the title: "Primeros

Trabajos Científicos," is much larger, comprising 770 pages. One regrets the poor quality of the drawings; but it must be remembered that Ameghino's drawings, of which there were thousands, were made by his own hand, untrained to do such work, and under unfavorable conditions, working in the back room of his stationery shop in La Plata. The drawings originally poor and not well produced at first, are not all we would like, but are still of great value as an aid in interpreting Ameghino's ideas.

The third volume will comprise the XXIVth memoir, and since there are 154 memoirs to follow one can, with a little simple mathematics, compute the approximate size of the series. An interesting sidelight to Ameghino's restless mental activity is given in Memoir XXIII., with the title "Taquigrafía Ameghino," which appears to be an attempt on his part to reduce the Spanish language to shorthand; the characters having a marked resemblance to those used in some American shorthand systems. It is to be hoped that his shorthand system was successful. But of its use in the commercial world of Spanish-speaking peoples, I know nothing. How many living paleontologists have devised a system of such far-reaching importance to another world than their own?

Florentino Ameghino was a wonderful man, and I am sure we wish Alfredo J. Torcelli all the success in the world in his "honorable autant que difficile travail."

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

THE FREE-MARTIN AND ITS RECIPROCAL: OPOSSUM, MAN, DOG

IN 1917 the writer purchased a large fat opossum, presumably a male, but actually a sex-intergrade possessing the following characters: externally, normal penis, empty scrotum, small malformed pouch, head rather like that of a female; internally, reproductive organs distinctly of the female type, infantile