

miles south of the first, is working in eocene deposits, the dawn period of mammalian life. The strata are extraordinarily rich in fossil remains. We have discovered the skull of a giant rhinoceros—like the beast known as the titanotheres, which, although it has been buried for three million years, is almost as perfect as though the animal had died a week ago. The titanotheres were previously only known in America. Finding this particular stage in their development shows that they crossed from America by way of a former land bridge to Asia.

We have found, also, remains of a giant dog-like carnivore, as well as many teeth and jaws of an ancestral tapir-like animal. We could spend easily a year's work in these great deposits, but will give them only enough time to get a few of the choicest things.

THE GODMAN AND SALVIN MEMORIAL

A TABLET in memory of Frederick Du Cane Godman, F.R.S., and Osbert Salvin, F.R.S., has been unveiled by Lord Rothschild, chairman of the memorial committee, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, and accepted on behalf of the trustees of the British Museum by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The London *Times* notes that these two distinguished men of science were intimately associated in research and the results of their labors form an important part of the treasures of the Natural History Museum. The friendship between them dated from the fifties of the last century, when they were both undergraduates at Cambridge, and lasted until the death in 1898 of Salvin, who was survived twenty-one years by Godman, the latter dying in 1919, in his eighty-sixth year. In 1876 the two friends conceived the idea of the monumental work entitled *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, which has been described as without doubt the greatest work of the kind ever planned and carried out by private individuals.

As completed, the *Biologia* consists of sixty-three volumes, of which one forms the introduction, fifty-one are devoted to zoology, five to botany, and six to archeology. The work was edited by Salvin and Godman, and after Salvin's death by Godman alone. The three volumes on the birds and three others on the diurnal lepidoptera were prepared by Godman and Salvin themselves, while the others were written by various specialists. The volumes contain 1,677 plates, of which more than nine hundred are colored, and the total number of species is 50,263, of which 19,263 are described for the first time.

In 1885 Godman and Salvin resolved to present their wonderful neo-tropical collections to the British Museum. Of birds' skins alone over 520,000 were contained in this magnificent donation, which included not only the collections made by Salvin and Godman themselves, chiefly in Guatemala, but many others from various parts of South America, the Mexican collections obtained by Godman himself and his col-

lectors, made in that country in 1887, and the great Henshaw collection of the birds of the United States containing over 13,000 specimens, which was secured by Godman in order to provide a thoroughly authentic series of North American birds for comparison with those of Mexico and Central America.

The commemorative tablet, with portraits in relief of Salvin and Godman, is placed on the wall of the central hall of the museum, near and behind the statue of Darwin.

Lord Rothschild, in presenting the tablet on behalf of the subscribers, explained that the committee had decided that any subscriptions left over after the memorial had been paid for should be devoted to a collecting fellowship. Shortly after that decision Dame Alice Godman and the Misses Godman devoted a further sum of £5,000 to the Godman Exploration Fund, to which others had given further donations.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in accepting the tablet, expressed the cordial welcome given by the trustees to gifts of that kind. Mr. Godman was one with whom it had been his privilege to sit for years as one of the trustees on the committee of management of museum affairs. Those who shared that privilege knew well how wide was the range of his knowledge and how applicable it was to almost anything that might arise. The Archbishop commended the setting up of memorials of great representatives of science and great benefactors to the museum. In Mr. Godman they had not only one of the donors to whom they owed so much, but also a valued trustee. He wanted to emphasize the importance which seemed to him to attach to taking care that such names, such acts, such memories and such lives should not be forgotten by those who looked at the specimens and collections the museum contained. He believed that in thus recording the services rendered by men such as Mr. Godman and Mr. Salvin they were serving the best interests of the museum.

SIR WILLIAM THISELTON-DYER

THE following letter, printed in *Nature*, has been addressed by British botanists to Sir William Theselton-Dyer, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on July 28:

The occasion of your eightieth birthday affords us the opportunity of which we gladly avail ourselves, not only of offering you our congratulations upon having attained so venerable an age, but also of assuring you of our continued regard and esteem. In doing so we who sign this letter do but acknowledge our indebtedness to you for the inspiration and guidance which we, both as teachers and researchers, have derived directly or indirectly from your own early work as a professor of botany. We regard that work, and more especially the courses of practical instruction conducted by you at South Kensington

in the years 1875 and 1876, as having inaugurated the renaissance of the study of the structure and functions of plants which had been so brilliantly carried on by British botanists in earlier times. It must, we feel sure, afford you great and justifiable satisfaction to contemplate the marvelous development of such studies in this country during the years that have passed since you quickened them into new life.

The professorial career on which you had embarked so brilliantly was unfortunately, as it may have seemed at the time, brought to a close by your appointment to the assistant directorship of Kew in 1875 and your subsequent appointment as director ten years later. The work that you were enabled to carry out at Kew has been of such national importance that, however much we may regret the loss of the stimulating influence you would undoubtedly have exerted as a professor, we all realize the great and lasting services you have rendered to botany, not only from the purely scientific point of view, but also in relation to the development and encouragement of botanical enterprise throughout the British Empire.

Another notable result of the interest you inspired was the successful launching of the *Annals of Botany*, which has come to be one of the leading botanical periodicals of the world. We do not forget that it was your enthusiasm that turned the scale when the question of "to be or not to be" hung in the balance. The *Annals* is a lasting monument to your courage and prescience.

It would need a lengthy document were we to attempt to set out in detail the value of your many efforts for the promotion of our science, but in conclusion we feel we must refer to the noble work you did in saving the old Chelsea Physic Garden from destruction. Thanks to you, London has now a botanic garden where students and teachers can study the structure and functions of plants and pursue those studies which you did so much to promote.

With our very kind regards and good wishes,

Believe us to be, dear Sir William,

Yours very truly,

D. H. SCOTT	F. KEEBLE
S. H. VINES	A. B. RENDLE
F. O. BOWER	A. SHIPLEY
BALFOUR	H. WAGER
H. T. BROWN	F. F. BLACKMAN
D. PRAIN	V. H. BLACKMAN
F. DARWIN	F. W. OLIVER
H. H. DIXON	A. G. TANSLEY
A. C. SEWARD	F. E. WEISS
J. B. FARMER	A. W. HILL
and all the leading botanists in Great Britain and Ireland.	

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE University of Strasbourg has conferred the title of doctor *honoris causa* on Drs. Simon Flexner and Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; William H. Welch, of the Johns

Hopkins University; William Maddock Bayliss and Ernest Henry Starling, of the University College of London; John Newport Langley, of the University of Cambridge; Edward L. Ehlers, of the University of Copenhagen; Jules J. B. Bordet, of the University of Brussels; Edoardo Perroncito, of the University of Turin, and Santiago Ramon y Cajal, of the University of Madrid.

At the general public meeting of the American Chemical Society on Tuesday, September 11, addresses of welcome will be delivered by C. H. Hall, chairman of the Milwaukee Section; Hon. Daniel Hoan, mayor of Milwaukee; Hon. Emanuel Philipp, president of the Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and President Fox, of Milwaukee University. The general addresses at this meeting will be delivered by Dr. Charles F. Burgess, who will speak on "Marketing chemical discoveries," and Dean R. T. Kendall, of the Medical School, Northwestern University, who will speak on "Bacteria and the chemist."

THE following awards have been made by the Royal College of Physicians, London: The Baly gold medal, given every alternate year for distinction in the science of physiology, to Mr. J. Barcroft; the Bisset-Hawkins medal, bestowed triennially for work in advancing sanitary science or in promoting public health, to Dr. T. M. Legge.

At the International Surgical Congress recently held in London, Dr. Davide Giordano, Venice, Italy, was elected president to succeed Sir William Macewen. The predecessors in the presidency of these congresses were: Kocher, of Berne; Czerny, of Heidelberg; Championnière, of Paris; Depage, of Brussels, and Keen, of Philadelphia. The next congress will be held in Rome.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that more than twenty physicians of Ontario were candidates at the recent elections to the Canadian Parliament. The following physicians were the successful candidates: Joseph D. Monteith, Stratford; the Hon. David Jamieson, Durham; Arthur G. Wallis, Algoma; Leeming Carr, East Hamilton; George V. Harcourt, Parry Sound; Forbes E. Godfrey, West York, and John P. Vrooman, Lennox.

THE National Alliance for the Increase of the French Population has awarded the first prize of 50,000 fr. to M. Paul Haury for the best popular pamphlet on the decreasing birth rate in France and the tragic consequences to the nation.

SIR RICHARD GLAZEBROOK has been appointed chairman in charge of exhibits in pure science at the British Empire Exhibition to be held next year in London.