

cepted a position as dean and professor of the college of pharmacy at Valparaiso University.

DR. OTTO FREDERIC KAMPMEIER, professor of anatomy at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, has been appointed head of the department of anatomy to succeed the late Professor Victor E. Emmel.

DR. T. FRANKLIN SIBLY, the geologist, principal of the University of London, has been elected vice-chancellor of the University of Reading, in succession to Dr. W. M. Childs, who is retiring in September.

## DISCUSSION

### GIFT TO DOWN HOUSE OF THE ORIGINAL LETTERS OF CHARLES DARWIN TO FRITZ MÜLLER

AFTER a year and a half of correspondence Professor Osborn has succeeded in purchasing from the Müller heirs in São Paulo, Brazil, the originals of the entire series of letters from Charles Darwin to Fritz Müller, chiefly written from Down House during the period from August 10, 1865, to January 4, 1882. These precious letters, which are now on their way to the American Museum of Natural History by registered mail, have been lying in the safe of Dr. C. T. Stewart, president of Mackenzie College, São Paulo, Brazil, and were reported in December, 1928, by Director L. V. Coleman, of the American Association of Museums, as being in excellent condition. The find was rather surprising since we had been informed "that one of the Müller heirs had successfully carried out his intention of taking all the Müller correspondence to Germany some time ago."

At the time Francis Darwin was preparing the life of his father he secured from the Müller heirs very accurate typewritten copies of all these letters, from which he made more or less copious extracts for his four biographic volumes. The series of inquiries which Darwin addressed to Müller cover a very great variety of subjects but chiefly relate to the problems of mimicry and to the cross and self-fertilization of plants. Despite Darwin's very delicate health they are written with very great care. After the first letter of inquiry each succeeding letter opens with an enthusiastic word of appreciation. The letters are fifty-eight in number, and by comparison in the American Museum with Francis Darwin's "Life and Letters" (edition 1896) it has been found that the series contains the August 10, 1865, letter with which Charles Darwin opened the correspondence. Seven more of the Müller letters are quoted in whole or in part in Volume II of the "Life and Letters," and thirty letters are quoted in whole or in part in Francis Darwin's "More Letters of Charles Darwin" (edition

1903). Thus of the fifty-eight letters secured for the memorial collection in Down House, which was opened on June 7 as a national shrine to the great naturalist, there are thirty-eight wholly or partly published and twenty still to our knowledge unpublished. Of the great German naturalist with whom Charles Darwin had this long correspondence, Francis Darwin writes, "My impression is that of all his unseen friends Fritz Müller was the one for whom he had the strongest regard." A biographical note on Fritz Müller is given on page 382 (Volume I) of "More Letters of Charles Darwin." His full name was Dr. Johann Friedrich Theodor Müller and he was residing in Blumenau, Sa. Catharina, South Brazil, when Darwin was writing to him.

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

### A CASE OF ACCIDENTAL PARASITISM

DURING the spring of 1927 Dr. Parke H. Simer, of Illinois Wesleyan, was at Money, Mississippi, on the banks of the Tallahatchie River collecting parasites. This river joins the Yalobusha to form the Yazoo River, which empties into the Mississippi near Vicksburg. All the Cestodaria secured were kindly turned over to me, and all these were taken with but a single exception from members of the Catostomidae, or suckers. One new species, *Glaridacris confusus*,<sup>1</sup> presented some interesting infection data, so unusual, in fact, that it seems wise to present this note separately.

*Glaridacris confusus* has been reported from several localities and hosts. *Ictiobus bubalus*, the small-mouthed buffalo fish, harbored this parasite in the Rock River, Illinois, and in the Mississippi River near Fairport, Iowa. Dr. Simer collected this parasite from the same host in the Tallahatchie River as well as from several undetermined *Ictiobus* sp., and *Dorosoma cepedianum*, the gizzard shad. The parasite is by far one of the most common in this region, being present in twenty-five of thirty-four *Ictiobus* examined, or 73.5 per cent. In addition it has been frequently encountered in Illinois and Iowa from the same host. Yet it is found but once in *Dorosoma cepedianum*.

No light can be gleaned from the parasite itself concerning this infection since we do not know any of the stages in its life history. Let us therefore examine this unusual host, *Dorosoma cepedianum*. The most striking feature appears to be that the two hosts of this parasite, the buffalo fish and the gizzard shad, belong in two widely separated families, Catostomidae and Dorosomidae (Clupeidae), respectively. Accord-

<sup>1</sup>G. W. Hunter, III, "New Caryophyllaeidae from North America," in press.