

ther revelation, can often be amplified, they can rarely be improved.

Then, too, as we are privileged to mount one after another of his paper-restored creatures, we are so impressed with his accuracy that if we would differ from the findings of the master, we must indeed show cause. The last of these is the magnificent specimen the mount of which is just completed. Living and dying in the Jurassic age, this monster lay entombed in Como Bluff, Wyoming, 120,000,000 years. Collected half a century ago it was sufficiently prepared to form the original type of a genus and species and to serve as the basis for the most remarkable of Marsh's restorations. Partly mounted in the old museum twenty years later, it was made the chief thing in our imagination around which the great hall of the new museum was built, and now, after fifty years, it stands again in its majesty, the fruition of the last three years of intensive work! When you go to the museum tomorrow to view its treasures which we have been privileged to display, the skeleton of *Brontosaurus excelsus* will, as the name implies, excel them all.

May I be permitted to read the tributes of two eminent men, preserved among the archives of the Peabody Museum?

To Clarence King, Director of the United States Geological Survey.

NEWPORT, Aug. 19, 1876.

MY DEAR SIR:

In accordance with your wish, I very willingly put into writing the substance of the opinion as to the importance of Prof. Marsh's collection of fossils which I expressed to you yesterday. As you are aware, I devoted four or five days to the examination of the collection and was enabled by Prof. Marsh's kindness to obtain a fair conception of the whole.

I am disposed to think that whether we regard the abundance of material, the number of complete skeletons of the various species, or the extent of geological time covered by the collection, which I had the good fortune

to see at New Haven, there is no collection of fossil vertebrata in existence which can be compared to it. I say this without forgetting Montmartra, Sivalik, or Pikermi.

And I think that I am quite safe in adding that no collection which has hitherto been formed approaches that made by Prof. Marsh in the completeness of the chain of evidence by which certain existing mammals are connected with their older tertiary ancestry.

It is of the highest importance to the progress of biological sciences that the publication of this evidence, accompanied by illustrations of such fulness as to enable palaeontologists to form their own judgment as to its value, should take place without delay.

I am

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) THOMAS H. HUXLEY

DOWN,
BECKENHAM, KENT.
RAILWAY STATION
ORPINGTON. S.E.R.

Aug. 31 1880

MY DEAR PROF. MARSH:

I received some time ago your very kind note of July 28th, and yesterday the magnificent volume. (The Monograph on the Odontornithes, Extinct Toothed Birds of North America.) I have looked with renewed admiration at the plates, and will soon read the text. Your work on these old birds and on the many fossil animals of N. America has afforded the best support to the theory of evolution, which has appeared within the last 20 years. The general appearance of the copy which you have sent me is worthy of its contents, and I can say nothing stronger than this.

With cordial thanks, believe me

Yours very sincerely,

(signed) CHARLES DARWIN

When one bears in mind that this letter was written approximately twenty years after the publication of the "Origin of Species" we realize the fulness of Darwin's tribute to Othniel C. Marsh.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ECOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

THE following extracts from a letter to its members which was printed in the June *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* were intended to obtain suggestions concerning uses and abuses of ecological nomenclature which might be discussed by the newly formed committee on nomenclature and then assembled for presentation to the society at the New Orleans meetings. Knowing that many persons, not members of the Ecological Society, are actively interested in these questions, the committee believes that it may be worth while for SCIENCE to republish the

essential points before the New Orleans meetings so that suggestions may be given to the committee by non-members of the Ecological Society as well as members. The committee is trying to work in the interest of all who make use of ecological terms, therefore it requests that any individual who cares to make a suggestion will give it to one of the members of the committee, preferably before the New Orleans meetings.

(1) In ecological discussions, written or spoken, what terms have you found to be used so loosely as to seem

in need of better definition? At the Cleveland meeting "marsh" and "swamp" were mentioned as possible examples. Although, like many other words useful in ecology, these two often have very close resemblance (or even synonymy) in popular usage, it is possible that they could be made to indicate definite differences in practice of ecologists. The committee would like to have a list of such terms as are known to you, together with such comment as you care to make.

(2) Should the society encourage plant ecologists, animal ecologists, agronomists and other limited groups to formulate their own terminology and definitions, or should the society endeavor to help standardize ecological concepts to embrace the whole field so that all specialists, so long as their point of view is ecological, could understand all the rest?

(3) Can you suggest terms, or some usage of terms, which will help one to express the distinction between waxing and waning phases of environmental influences; *e.g.*, those involved in increasing or decreasing degrees of heat?

The committee is agreed, and probably most members of the society concur, that it is not practicable or desirable to attempt to force improvement by legislation, but it does seem possible that improvement may follow responsible suggestions and formal recommendations if they can be offered in a form suited to existing needs.

Submitted by the Committee on Nomenclature of the Ecological Society of America.

H. C. HANSON

State College, Fargo, N. Dak.

J. G. NEEDHAM

Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

WALTER P. TAYLOR

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A. G. VESTAL

University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

W. E. ALLEN, *Chairman*

Scripps Institution, La Jolla, Calif.

EXHIBIT OF SPECIMENS OF HIMALAYAN FLORA AT THE ROERICH MUSEUM

AN exhibition of fifty mounted botanical sheets, representing examples of the Himalayan flora, has been opened at Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum in New York City. The loan is part of a herbarium of 3,800 specimens presented to the New York Botanical Garden by the Himalayan Research Institute Headquarters in India, and has been identified personally by Dr. E. D. Merrill, director-in-chief.

The scientific value of the herbarium collections assembled by the institute, as well as the purpose of the collections, are significant. Bio-chemical and cancer research laboratories are now being built at the headquarters of the institute in the Himalayas for their

investigation from a medicinal viewpoint. In this connection, also, a careful survey is being made of the Tibetan pharmacopoeia and medicinal literature. Over two hundred items, including native drugs and medicinal herbs, have already been secured, and valuable medicinal texts on therapy and pharmacology, including the *rGyud-bshi* and a number of *gter-ma* or "hidden" books on the Tibetan medicines, have been obtained. The Tibetan pharmacopoeia is known to be particularly rich, and to have in its possession, since time immemorial, remedies against cancer and tuberculosis which are said to have been used with success. It is the purpose of the institute to investigate these remedies.

The present exhibit at the Roerich Museum includes specimens of the Himalayan flora, which is a very diversified and interesting one, containing many species of marked beauty. Flowering plants, ferns and fern allies, hepatics, lichens and fungi are among the specimens represented. They were secured at altitudes ranging from 5-12,000 ft. elevations to the perpetual snowpeaks of Tibet, during the botanical-zoological expeditions in 1929-1931 under Dr. Walter Koelz, of the staff of the institute.

The most recent explorations of Dr. Koelz, during the summer of 1931, have led him into inmost Asia, through Lahul, the Indus Valley and Ladak; 26 mountain passes, some of them 18,000 to 19,000 feet, were crossed, and the expedition led past the great salt lakes of Tibet, one of them, the Pangong La, being 90 miles in length. Four months were consumed by the journey. According to a preliminary report by Dr. Koelz, sent by Dr. George Roerich, director of the Himalayan Research Institute, to the Roerich Museum in New York, 1,000 plant numbers (some 15,000 specimens) were obtained, and 25 big game animals—including ibex, napo, gazelle, kiang, ovis ammon, shapu, etc.—as well as a number of smaller mammals, were also collected. The report continues: "Much of the area visited has not been biologically explored previously, and in the area that has been studied ornithologically, the expedition's work has added new records to the bird fauna. None of the territory explored is under 9,500 ft. and much over 14,000 ft. . . . The vegetation is striking. Barley ripens at 15,000 ft. in places, and exquisitely fragrant, showy flowers abound on the peaks to elevations of 18,000 and 19,000 ft.; these are not dwarfed, stunted plants such as one usually finds in alpine zones, but often a foot or two in height."

THE INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

PROFESSOR C. F. MARVIN, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has returned from Europe where he attended meetings of the International Meteorological