

putrefactive bacteria entered the egg in its passage down the oviduct and before the shell was formed.

But to conclude that all eggs when laid contain putrefactive bacteria is not warranted. It is a matter of common household observation that a few eggs do not decay, no matter how long they may be kept, and the further fact that eggs packed in some dry material, as sawdust, salt, etc., and those greased or coated with gelatin, etc., seem to keep longer than those left in the open air, would seem to indicate that the bacteria enter through the shell.

I regret that these experiments were not completed.

The point is one of considerable hygienic and even commercial importance and one that needs but a little careful work to settle beyond question.

CHARLES T. MCCLINTOCK.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich., Aug. 11.

#### CORRELATION OF TEJON DEPOSITS WITH EOCENE STAGES OF THE GULF SLOPE.

WHILE comparing the Texan Eocene fossils with type specimens and others in the collection of the U. S. National Museum and in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences I have been impressed with the remarkable sameness in faunal characters throughout the vast extent of the lower Claiborne, or Lisbon, horizon; many of the species from South Carolina are identical with those from the banks of the Rio Grande, and the rocks from Ft. Téton, California, furnish a very similar fauna with several identical and many more analogous species. Gabb's *Cardita hornii* is *Venericardia planicosta* Lam. as held by Conrad; the type specimen is slightly malformed and imperfect, but others from the same locality are quite typical *planicosta*. Gabb's *Architectonica cognata* is Conrad's *Solarium alveatum*; Gabb's *Architectonica hornii*, Conrad's *Solarium amœnum*; Gabb's *Neverita secta*, Conrad's *Natica atiles*, and so on. Gabb's peculiar and characteristic little *Whitneya ficus* is known from Alum Creek Bluff, Colorado

River, Bastrop Co., Tex., and is in itself a strong argument for the synchrony of the Texan and California beds from which it is derived. Moreover, in deposits of this horizon on both sides of the Rockies, there are similar developments in the genera *Crassatella*, *Cytherea*, *Pyrula*, *Levifusus*, *Rimella* and others.

With the above facts in mind I cannot help suggesting that those who have an opportunity to study the Eocene series of California (Téton deposits) would do well to look for the Midway stage which ranks second in persistency among the subdivisions of the Eocene along the Gulf slope. In other words search should be made along the Chico-Téton contact for such species as *Enclimaceras ulricii*, *Cucullaea macrodonta*, *Ostrea pulaskensis*, together with varieties of *Venericardia planicosta*, *Turritella mortoni*, *T. humerosa*, and other Midway forms.

GILBERT D. HARRIS.

Geological Survey of Texas, Washington, D. C., Aug. 1.

#### AN ADDITION TO THE MYOLOGY OF THE CAT.

IN St. George Mivart's book on the cat there is to be found one of the most extensive articles on feline myology ever written, nevertheless there seems to be a muscle in the hind foot not mentioned in his work or anywhere else as far as I can ascertain. It takes its origin by a broad flat bundle of fibres from the outer side of the Os Calcis immediately below the anterior prominence, these run obliquely forwards forming a comparatively broad, thin tendon, which blends on the plantar surface with, for the most part, the *Flexor-longus-pollicis*, where it joins the *Flexor-longus-digitorum-pedis*, but a few fibres of the tendon go to the latter muscle.

It is innovated by a branch from the external plantar. That this muscle is not an abnormality I am quite sure as it has been found in 25 subjects from the vicinity of New York and one from Italy.

JOSEPH W. THOMPSON.

Clifton, Staten Island.

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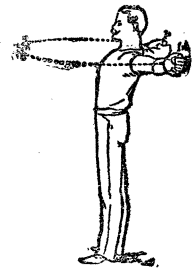
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