

The new museum at the Jardin des Plantes for comparative anatomy will have the paleontological specimens placed on the second floor. The fossils will be well arranged for study and the gallery is splendidly lighted. Immediately at the end of the building is Prof. Gaudry's lecture room and a working laboratory for students. Here you have the ideal museum, well arranged specimens, not too many of them so as to be a burden to the student's mind, a laboratory for studying the objects, and lastly, a well planned lecture room for the 'cour.'

Vertebrate paleontology has at least one great advantage over recent mammalogy and ornithology; there is no danger of exhibiting too many specimens of vertebrate fossils, especially mammals, as these specimens themselves are exceedingly rare and very costly in procuring. In most museums the hundreds of grinning owls and the forty eleven species, illustrating the forms of the *Muridae* for example, are only a hindrance to the appreciation by the public of what an owl or a mouse is. Synoptical collections, I believe, do a great deal more good for general exhibition purposes than all the species representing the numerous genera of the animal kingdom. Let us have on exhibition the complete life-histories of a number of well selected types of animals, as illustrated by the metamorphosis of an arthropod or the changes in plumage of a bird. I believe the beautifully arranged collection of comparative osteology and the cases illustrating adaptation of birds and mammals to their environment in the British Natural History Museum, London, do more good in the way of educating the public than miles of so-called species arranged in cases. I have always particularly noticed, in passing through the central corridor of that great Natural History Museum in South Kensington, that many people were collected around the

cases in this main hall, whose specimens illustrate the structure and variation of the animal kingdom.

A great innovation was introduced in biology by the publication of Huxley and Martin's 'Practical Biology,' taking up the study of animal types, and placing aside for the time being the old method of hammering at species all the time, which leads to small results in getting at the real affinities of animals. I think if, in arranging museums, this idea of illustrating the structure and life-history of animals were more followed, better results in educating the public would be attained.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE IRON AGE IN AMERICA.

IN the *American Anthropologist* for June, Prof. Otis T. Mason has a well-prepared article on the introduction of the iron age into America. Of course, this was post-Columbian, but its history is important and has never before been presented. The use of the metal extended rapidly, and often reached tribes long before the first white men wandered to their abodes. The influence of this new material was felt immediately, and not always to the best advantage. "The technique may be better, but the motive, the underlying conception and the composition may be incalculably worse." The author most judiciously insists on the truth that "the unadulterated aboriginal product reveals to our gaze the living processes by which men have always progressed to higher life."

The article closes with a strong and a much needed appeal to those who have in charge public and private collections to cultivate coöperation and to show greater liberality to students in the same field. Some very pointed statements of facts could be made in this connection. There

are too many owners and custodians of collections who seem to think that specimens should be locked up and concealed, rather than exhibited and offered for examination.

ON ENDO-CANNIBALISM.

By this term is meant eating members of one's own tribe, while 'exo-cannibalism' signifies the consumption of the dead bodies of strangers and enemies. Dr. R. S. Steinmetz, of Holland, well known for his excellent treatise on the development of punishment, has a study of endo-cannibalism in Vol. XXVI. of the *Mittheilungen* of the Anthropological Society of Vienna. He collects a large array of facts about the custom from numerous writers and from all parts of the world. These he tabulates with reference to motives, and then proceeds to deduce conclusions.

The question arises, was primitive man a cannibal? It has already been answered in the affirmative by various archaeologists, and Dr. Steinmetz agrees with them. He believes the usual disposition of the dead body in early times was as a delicacy for the table. This will easily explain why we do not find, according to Mortillet, any signs of tombs or burial places in palæolithic ages.

Of course, as the author observes, there could have been no abhorrence of a corpse when it was a favorite article of diet. That sentiment came later, when the belief in a soul and an after-life arose, and the fear that the ghost would not like his body to be so treated. The memoir will be found replete with interesting suggestions.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

LORD KELVIN.

At the banquet given to Lord Kelvin by the Corporation and University of Glasgow on the evening of June 16th, he spoke (according to the report in the *London Times*) as follows :

I thank you with my whole heart for your kindness to me this evening. You have come here to commemorate the jubilee of my University professorship; and I am deeply sensible of the warm sympathy with which you have received the kind expressions of the Lord Provost regarding myself in his review of my 50 years' service and his most friendly appreciation of practical results which have come from my scientific work. I might perhaps rightly feel pride in knowing that the University and City of Glasgow have joined in conferring on me the great honor of holding this jubilee, and that so many friends and so many distinguished men, friends and comrade-day-laborers in science have come from near and far to assist in its celebration, and that congratulations and good wishes have poured in on me by letter and telegram from all parts of the world, I do feel profoundly grateful. But when I think how infinitely little is all that I have done I cannot feel pride; I only see the great kindness of my scientific comrades and of all my friends, in crediting me for so much. One word characterizes the most strenuous of the efforts for the advancement of science that I have made perseveringly during 55 years; that word is failure. I know no more of electric and magnetic force or of the relation between ether, electricity, and ponderable matter, or of chemical affinity, than I knew and tried to teach my students of natural philosophy 50 years ago in my first session as professor. Something of sadness must come of failure; but in the pursuit of science inborn necessity to make the effort brings with it much of the *certaminis gaudia*, and saves the naturalist from being wholly miserable, perhaps even allows him to be fairly happy, in his daily work. And what splendid compensations for philosophical failures we have had in the admirable discoveries by observation and experiment on the properties of matter, and in the exquisitely beneficent applications of science to the use of mankind with which these 50 years have so abounded! You, my Lord Provost, have remarked that I have had the good fortune to remain for 50 years in one post. I cordially reply that for me they have been happy years. I cannot forget that the happiness of Glasgow University both for students and professors is