

thious forms (ostrich, rhea, dinornis, aepyornis, emeu, cassowary, kiwi or apteryx) are thoroughly examined and lead the author to unite these two groups into a new division *Palæognathæ*, differing from all the remaining orders (*Neognathæ* equals *Carinathæ* minus *Crypturi*) especially in skull structure.

His conclusion is that the various 'struthious' forms are widely separate in origin; the emeus and cassowaries are on the whole the most primitive, the true ostriches being a later branch from the same stem; the moas are distantly related to the aepyornithes; the kiwis (*Apteryges*) are highly aberrant. The interrelationships of the higher birds are not discussed, but an appended phyletic tree represents *Hesperornis* as one of the *Pygopodes* and *Ichthyornis* as related to the *Steganopodes* (pelicans, tropic birds, cormorants, etc.).

H. F. O.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AND THE DEATH
OF PRESIDENT McKINLEY.

WE reproduce the letter addressed by the President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to the United States Ambassador to Great Britain and the latter's reply:

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SCIENCE.

BURLINGTON HOUSE,
LONDON, W., Sept. 19, 1901.

To his Excellency, The Hon. J. H. CHOATE, Ambassador of the United States of America.

Sir, The General Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, assembled this year in Glasgow, desire me to express to you the horror with which they heard of the attack upon the late President of the United States, and their deep sorrow at his death. On the first day of the meeting in Glasgow the Association telegraphed to Mr. McKinley the assurance of their sympathy and of their earnest hopes for his recovery.

These hopes have not been fulfilled; and it is now my sad duty to inform you that the tragic fate of the President of the United States has cast a deep shadow over our meeting. Together with all our fellow-countrymen we share in the sorrow of the great sister nation which you represent; and we desire, through you, to inform the men of science of America that the members of the British Association are bound to them not only by ties of blood, not only by the links

which unite all students of nature, but by the deeper feelings which draw together those who are partners in a common sorrow, and mourn one of the leaders of our common race.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. W. RÜCKER,
President.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
LONDON, Sept. 23, 1901.

Sir,

I have received with heartfelt gratitude the kind expression of condolence and sympathy at the death of President McKinley which you have forwarded to me on behalf of the General Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

I shall duly advise my government of its receipt, and it will be highly appreciated by them and by Mrs. McKinley. Your kind message and hundreds of other similar communications from all parts of the British Dominions, carry an assurance of national friendship and goodwill which will be most welcome to the American people.

Yours sincerely,
JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

A. W. RÜCKER, Esq.,
President.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AMONG the scientific men who have expressed their intention of being present at the Yale bi-centennial exercises are Professor Simon Newcomb and Professor Charles S. Minot.

PROFESSOR BASHFORD DEAN, of Columbia University, has returned from his sabbatical year, spent in studying the marine zoology of Japan, and in visiting China and the Philippines. He has sent to the American Museum of Natural History a fine collection of Ainu materials, also a series of glass sponges and of the Japanese long-tailed fowls. For the Zoological Department of Columbia he brings back extensive research and exhibition collections.

WE regret to learn that Dr. J. H. Hyslop, professor of logic and ethics in Columbia University, is ill, and has been given leave of absence for a sabbatical year which he will spend in the Adirondacks. Dr. A. L. Jones, as lecturer, will take his courses.

PROFESSORS MITSURU KUHARA and Hanichi Muraoka, occupying respectively the chairs of