

for letters. The United States Post Office Department also stated that it had recently submitted a proposition to the countries composing the Postal Union, to modify the regulations so that such specimens might be received into the mails at the same rates as samples of merchandise, but that a sufficient number of those countries had voted against the proposition to defeat it.

This Academy has therefore resolved to address the various scientific bodies, with which it is in communication, in those countries whose governments have voted against the proposition, and to request those scientific bodies to memorialize their respective governments in favour of the same.

The Governments of Austria, Bolivia, British India, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Hungary, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Tunis, Uruguay and Venezuela having voted in the negative, this Academy respectfully requests the favorable consideration of this question by scientific Societies and begs that they take such steps as they deem advisable to inform the Postal authorities of their respective governments of the manifest advantages to scientific research which would result from the adoption of the proposed modification, and to request those authorities to take such steps as may result in the adoption of the same.

The letter rate for postage (Universal Postal Union) is ten times that required for samples of merchandise; such a rate for specimens of Natural History is virtually prohibitive.

This Academy would respectfully urge upon scientific Societies prompt action on this matter if it meets with that approval which we so strongly desire.

Philadelphia, 14. November 1893.

Isaac J. Wistar, President.

Edw. J. Nolan, Recording Secretary.

2. Zoological Society of London.

7th November, 1893. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, and September 1893. Among these special attention was called to four South-Island Robins (*Miro albifrons*) from New Zealand, presented by Capt. Edgar J. Evans; an adult male of Stairs' Monkey (*Cerco-pithecus Stairsi*), presented by Mr. F. Hinze on June 7th; a family of six European Beavers (*Castor fiber*), consisting of a male, a female, and four young ones, from the Lower Rhone; a young Korean Sea-Eagle (*Haliaëtus Branickii*), obtained from Corea; and a fine specimen of the Great Grebe of Antarctic America (*Aechmophorus major*) in full plumage. The Secretary also exhibited a living example of the Goliath Beetle (*Goliathus Druryi*), the largest of known Coleoptera, from the Society's Insect-house. — Mr. Slater read some notes on the most interesting animals he had seen during a recent visit to the Zoological Gardens of Stuttgart, Frankfort, and Cologne. — An extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. J. G. Millais, F.Z.S., relating his endeavours to obtain specimens of the White Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*) in Mashunaland. — A communication was read from Babu Ram Bramha Sányál, C.M.Z.S., describing a Hybrid Monkey of the Genus *Semnopithecus*, born in the Zoological Gardens, Calcutta. — Mr. Tegetmeier exhibited a specimen of a hybrid Grouse between the Blackgame (*Tetrao tetrrix*) and the Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*). — Mr. Boulenger read a paper »On a Nothosaurian Reptile from the

Trias of Lombardy, apparently referable to *Lariosaurus*.^a His description was based on a small, nearly perfect specimen from Mount Perledo showing the ventral aspect, belonging to the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt-on-Main, which had been intrusted to him by the Directors of that institution, and was exhibited before the Meeting. The author pointed out the presence of a series of minute teeth on the pterygoid bones, and of an entepicondylar (ulnar) foramen in the humerus. The number of phalanges was 2, 3, 4, 4, 3 in the manus, and 2, 3, 4; 5, 4 in the pes; the terminal phalanx was flattened and obtusely pointed, not claw-shaped. In discussing the affinities of this reptile the author stated that the *Lariosaurus* described by Diecke did not appear to be generically distinguishable from the *Neusticosaurus* of Seeley, which he referred to the *Lariosauridae*, regarding that family as intermediate between the *Mesosauridae* and the *Nothosauridae*, though nearer the latter. The *Mesosauridae*, in his opinion, formed one suborder, the *Lariosauridae* and *Nothosauridae* together a second suborder, of the order *Plesiosauria*. — Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., read a second report on specimens of Reptiles, Batrachians, and Fishes transmitted by Mr. H. H. Johnston C.B., F.Z.S., from British Central Africa. — Dr. Günther also read descriptions of some new Reptiles and Fishes of which specimens had been obtained on Lake Tanganyika by Mr. E. Coode-Hore. — Mr. Edgar A. Smith, F.Z.S., gave an account of a collection of Land and Freshwater Shells transmitted by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., from British Central Africa. The specimens in this collection, obtained by Mr. R. Crawshaw from Lake Mweru, were almost all new to science. — Mr. Edgar A. Smith also read descriptions of two new species of Shells of the genus *Ennea*. — A communication was read from Dr. Arthur G. Butler containing an account of two collections of Lepidoptera sent by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., from British Central Africa. — A communication was read from Mr. Edwyn C. Reed, C.M.Z.S., containing a list of the Chilian Hymenoptera of the family *Odyneridae*, with descriptions of some new species. — A communication from Prof. Newton, F.R.S., contained the description of a new species of bird of the genus *Drepanis*, discovered by Mr. R. C. L. Perkins in the island of Molokai, Sandwich Islands. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

Bemerkung.

Veranlasst durch den vielfach geäußerten Wunsch, die Litteraturangaben möglichst bald erscheinen zu lassen, sind Redacteur und Verleger übereinkommen, diesem Wunsche vom Jahre 1894 an zu entsprechen.

Da sich hierdurch die Litteratur in den einzelnen Nummern zu sehr häufen würde, wird die noch rückständige Litteratur des zweiten Halbjahres 1893 als ein besonderes Heft zum XVI. Jahrgang Anfang 1894 gegen Berechnung erscheinen und zwar mit der Litteratur des Jahrgangs 1893 fortlaufend paginiert, worauf beim Einbinden dieses Jahrgangs Rücksicht zu nehmen ist. — Mit diesem Hefte werden auch Titel und Inhalt zum XVI. Jahrgang zur Ausgabe gelangen.

Der Preis für den Jahrgang wird wegen der Erweiterung des Umfanges und der dadurch bedingten Kosten von 1894 an auf *ℳ* 18,—. erhöht.

Prof. J. Victor Carus.

Wilhelm Engelmann.

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