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It is self-evident that it will be a difficult task to compare with a leg an appendage so entirely transformed. The attempts in this direction which have been undertaken in various ways by myself and other investigators must be regarded as having failed, yet I think that I am now able to compare and name the joints of the mandibles correctly.

I made a preparation of a mandible of an *Uropoda africana*, Oudms. This was composed of all known joints. It exhibited a trapezoidal coxa, a short trochanter, and a longer femur, which is united by means of two lateral condyles with a still longer genu; the latter, again, is connected by a dorsal condyle with the tibia, which carries the tarsus proximally in a pit on its ventral surface!

In the Parasitidæ, therefore, the proximal cylindrical joint is formed of the united coxa, trochanter, and femur, and the second joint of the united genu and tibia, while the last joint, the digitus mobilis of the chela, represents the tarsus. I go still further, and see in the ventral, proximal, and internal copulatory organ of the male Parasitidæ an analogue of the above-described furcate hair of the tarsus palparum.

In cases in which the mandible consists of only two joints (*e. g.* in the Labidostomidæ, Bdellidæ, Oribatidæ, and Acaridæ) the first joint is consequently to be regarded as a fusion of the coxa, trochanter, femur, genu, and tibia, while the digitus mobilis represents merely the tarsus.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

Darwinism and the Problems of Life. By CONRAD GUENTHER, Ph.D., Professor at the University of Freiburg in Baden. Translated from the Third Edition by JOSEPH McCABE. London: A. Owen & Co., 1906.

THE author tells us that "the present work had its origin in an attempt to appreciate the range, the foundation, and the value of evolutionary theories." This attempt accomplished, to his own satisfaction, he expresses a desire so to present the facts that he has garnered as to enable "nature herself . . . [to] teach the reader the truth of evolution."

But we venture to think that the author has by no means attained his ambition. His presentation of Darwinism is laboured, amateurish, and occasionally grotesque!

The translator is obviously not a zoologist, and to him probably

must be attributed many of the strange and misapplied names of animals and organs which occur throughout the pages of this book, which, indeed, does not seem to us to have been worthy even of this indifferent translation.

W. P. P.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

February 7th, 1906.—J. E. Marr, Sc.D., F.R.S.,
President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

‘The Carboniferous Limestone (Avonian) of the Mendip Area (Somerset), with especial reference to the Palæontological Sequence.’
By Thomas Franklin Sibly, B.Sc., F.G.S.

The Avonian rocks are exposed in four main anticlinal forms or periclinal lines—those of Black Down, North Hill, Pen Hill, and Beacon Hill; each of which has an approximately east-and-west trend and has Old Red Sandstone exposed in its core. The following is the zonal succession:—

Zones.		Subzones & Horizons.	Feet.
KIDWELLIAN.	<i>Dibunophyllum</i>	{ D ₂ . <i>Lonsdalia floriformis</i> . D ₁ . <i>Dibunophyllum</i> θ. }	500
	<i>Seminula</i>	{ S ₂ . <i>Productus</i> aff. <i>Cora</i> mut. S ₂ . S ₁ . <i>P. cf. semireticulatus</i> mut. S ₁ . }	720
CLEVEDONIAN.	<i>Syringothyris</i>	C. <i>S. cuspidata</i> .	550
	<i>Zaphrentis</i>	{ Z ₂ . <i>Z. aff. cornucopiae</i> . Z ₁ . <i>Spirifer</i> aff. <i>clathratus</i> . }	800
	<i>Cleistopora</i>	{ K ₂ . <i>Spiriferina</i> cf. <i>octoplicata</i> . K ₁ . <i>Productus bassus</i> . M. (<i>Modiola</i> -phase.) }	450

In the present paper, the faunal sequence is discussed in detail, attention being confined almost entirely to the corals and brachiopods, which predominate throughout the series. The lithological character of each zone and subzone is treated briefly. The general