

The executive committee consists of the officers and the following gentlemen, who were also elected: E. T. Allen, A. Seidell, E. A. Hill and S. S. Voorhees.

W. W. Skinner was appointed chairman of the committee on communications.

J. A. LeCLERC,
Secretary

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

IS ALABAMORNIS A BIRD?

A LITTLE more than a year ago Dr. Abel published a brief paper, taking the ground that the bones described by me in 1900 as the pelvic girdle of *Zeuglodon* were really the coracoids of a gigantic bird, possibly allied to *Gastornis* and, distantly, to *Anthropornis*. In reviewing this paper I said that it "seemed so clear and convincing that this conclusion was at once accepted, . . . but it became evident that if they (the bones) were the coracoids of a bird, that bird was extraordinary, if not exceptional in many particulars"; it was therefore decided to say nothing more until the bones could be reexamined. It has been impossible for me to do this, but Mr. C. W. Gilmore has kindly examined them for me and corroborated my remembrance of certain details. It is rather difficult to discuss the question without figures, but a description of the bones taken by me for *ossa innominata* must suffice for the present. One is perfect, save for the loss of a few millimeters on one process; the other has lost the posterior, or proximal, end if it is a coracoid, but the anterior end is perfect, which in this case is an all-important fact. Close by the anterior end is a good-sized cavity, precisely like an acetabulum, and this is *the only articular surface* present; what Dr. Abel considers the glenoid fossa is simply a notch, *not* an articulation. The length of the complete bone is 245 mm., 9½ in., and the bones are flattened, but not crushed or distorted.

If we adopt Dr. Abel's view that the bone is a coracoid we are confronted with the following extraordinary conditions: the precoracoid process is longer than the acrocoracoid, Dr. Abel's processus furcularis, and the acrocoracoid aborted, being reduced to a low,

rounded mass of bone, without articular faces of any kind. The articulation of the scapula with the coracoid would be by means of a ball-and-socket joint and, were a humerus present, it would rest against the anterior end of the coracoid, with nothing in advance of the shoulder joint. For, it must be repeated, the anterior end of the bone, be it pelvis or coracoid, is absolutely complete, save a chip off the point of the "precoracoid"; it was never any longer. Then, too, the proximal end of the alleged coracoid is thin and narrow, whereas the coracoid in all other birds, and particularly in flightless birds, is expanded where it articulates with the sternum. Finally the texture of the bone is dense and not bird-like.

If the bones are the coracoids of a bird they represent a type of shoulder girdle entirely different from any with which we are at present acquainted, and the bird from which they come not only belongs to a new species and genus, but to a new order or superorder.

There is not the slightest resemblance between the bone named by Dr. Abel *Alabamornis* and the coracoid of *Anthropornis* which is a perfectly normal avian coracoid; nor is there any resemblance between it and the coracoid of *Gastornis*, which is long and slender, the only peculiarity being that it belongs to a degenerate shoulder girdle and its characters are not sharply defined.

Dr. Abel's surmise that *Diatryma* and *Alabamornis* may be one and the same is best answered by noting that not only are the bones separated by many hundred miles of space, but that one comes from the Lower Eocene, Wasatch, the other from the Upper Eocene, Jacksonian. Now, I will not insist that the bones under discussion represent the pelvis of *zeuglodon* nor deny that they are the coracoids of a bird; I will simply say that it seems to me doubtful that this last ascription is correct and wait for further discoveries to throw more light on the problem. F. A. LUCAS

CLADODUS COMPRESSUS, A CORRECTION

IN the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources, page 1378, I named a new species