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Review: Antarctic Zoology

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not even the memory of a name. In spite of the difficulty of maintaining intercourse with the people, a considerable amount of information is given respecting the various tribes, especially the Turkana and Suk, the photographs also giving a good idea of their physical appearance. The paper and printing of the book are both good, but it is unfortunate that the illustrations are mostly scattered at haphazard through the text without any regard to order.

## AMERICA.

### THE ANDES.

In this book Sir Martin Conway\* gives an account of his ascent of Aconcagua in the footsteps of the members of Mr. Fitzgerald's expedition, and of his exploration of Mount Sarmiento in the Straits of Magellan. He also visited those very remarkable inland basins named by their surveyors Otway and Skyring waters. The narrative is interesting throughout and well illustrated; but perhaps the most useful part is contained in the account of the progress of sheep-farming on the pampas between Punta Arenas and the Argentine frontier.

Over two years ago Prof. Ray Lancaster said, in a lecture before the Zoological Society, "It is quite possible—I don't want to say more than that—that the mylodon still exists in some of the mountainous regions of Patagonia." So an expedition was sent to Patagonia under the lead of Mr. Prichard † in search of the prehistoric mylodon. No mylodon was found, but there were valuable biological and ethnological results. They are embodied in a large octavo volume very profusely and beautifully illustrated, the whole forming about the heaviest book, for its size, that was ever published. It can no more be held in the hand to read than an old folio such as Dugdale's *Baronage* or a volume of Harris's *Voyages*. Mr. Prichard's account of the Tehuelches, of their physique, manners and customs, and methods of hunting is a valuable contribution to ethnology. For this interesting people are not a branch of the Inca group of tribes, but are isolated, and perhaps of Malayan origin. Mr. Prichard refers to their melancholy fate—too noble and too reserved to adapt themselves to changes caused by European encroachments, they are doomed, and nothing can arrest their proudly sad progress to certain extinction. This gives increased value to the sympathetic researches of an observant and intelligent traveller like Mr. Prichard, whose narrative is agreeably written. His zoological notes, describing the wild animals and their habits, are beautifully illustrated. Mr. Prichard believes that no great progress is possible in the formation of a flourishing pastoral industry in Patagonia, unless the farmers are supplied with vastly improved means of communication. Railroads are the great need.

## POLAR REGIONS.

### ANTARCTIC ZOOLOGY. ‡

In a preface to this handsome and beautifully illustrated volume, Prof. Ray Lankester gives a brief sketch of the expedition of the *Southern Cross*, which, as our readers are aware, was initiated and led by Mr. C. E. Borchgrevink at the expense of Sir George Newnes. The collections dealt with were made mainly by the zoologist of the expedition, Mr. Nicolai Hanson, and Mr. Hugh Evans, the assistant zoologist, assisted by other members of the scientific staff. The death of Mr. Hanson in Victoria Land "was a great loss to the expedition, as it was to

\* 'Aconcagua and Tierra del Fuego.' By Sir Martin Conway. Cassell. 1902.

† 'Through the Heart of Patagonia.' By H. Hesketh Prichard. Heinemann. 1902.

‡ 'Report on the Collections of Natural History made in the Antarctic Regions during the Voyage of the *Southern Cross*.' London: Printed by Order of the Trustees [of the British Museum]. 1902.

science generally, for, either from want of knowledge or want of care on the part of the survivors, his collections suffered considerably, especially in the case of the Invertebrata, as will be seen from the reports of the various specialists who have described them. The seals, of which there was a large series, were sent home in brine, but the tubs in which they were packed were not labelled in any way, and only a few specimens had leaden tickets attached to them. These had unfortunately become so corroded from immersion in the brine as to be, in nearly every case, undecipherable, and no list of the collection of seals was forthcoming. The memoir on the White seal which Mr. Hanson prepared, and which would undoubtedly have added much to our knowledge of this animal, was, I am informed, lost by some mischance on the voyage home. It is, therefore, to be regretted that the work will have to be done again by the naturalists on board the *Discovery* and other expeditions which may visit Antarctica in the future" (p. iv.).

Prof. Ray Lankester, as director of the Natural History Museum, entrusted Dr. Bowdler Sharpe with the preparation of the memoirs on the Vertebrata for the press, and Prof. Jeffery Bell with the Invertebrata. These naturalists and the authors of the numerous special memoirs have done their work well, and give us at least the comfort of knowing that the utmost possible has been made of the collections since their arrival at the museum. In addition to twenty articles dealing with the different classes of animals, there is one devoted to lists of the names of the scanty set of specimens of plant-life, and one to the rocks.

Unfortunately, the absence of labels or of specific information as to localities from the specimens deprives the description of species of their geographical interest. But, at least, we are at last in possession of an authoritative synonymy of the seals and birds most frequently referred to by antarctic explorers, and of very beautiful coloured pictures of the seals and some of the penguins. From Captain Barrett-Hamilton's description of the seals we learn that only four species are known from the antarctic regions, each the sole representative of a genus so far at least as those waters are concerned. As a rule the scientific name of a species has the merit of being one and distinctive, while the popular names are many and variable; but in the case of the antarctic seals there are so many scientific synonyms, due, no doubt, to the imperfect specimens and descriptions brought home, that we have to fall back on the popular names in order to be sure of which seal an author speaks.

The four definite species are as follows, the best-known popular name being given in small capitals, the scientific name now accepted in italics:—

1. WEDDELL'S SEAL, or false sea-leopard, *Leptonychotes Weddelli*; also known at various times as a species of *Leptonyx*, *Peciliphoca*, *Stenorhynchus*, or *Otaria*.

2. The LEOPARD SEAL, or true sea-leopard, *Ogmorhynchus leptonyx*; also described as of the genus *Stenorhynchus* or *Phoca*.

3. WHITE SEAL, or crab-eating seal, *Lobodon carcinophagus*, which has also been described as belonging to the genera *Phoca*, *Stenorhynchus*, *Leptorhynchus*, and *Ogmorhynchus*, with a variety of specific names.

4. ROSS'S SEAL, *Ommatophoca Rossi*, which is happy in never having been mis-called, and from its portrait could hardly have been mistaken for any other creature unless it were a pouter pigeon on a gigantic scale.

Beautiful coloured drawings of the young, immature and adult forms of the common antarctic penguin *Pygoscelis Adeliae* are given, and coloured representations of the eggs of three species of birds.

Among the fishes eight new species, including representatives of two new genera, have been found. These are figured, and they have received the names of the patron, leader, and chief members of the scientific staff of the expedition.

We hope that those who may in future be inclined to equip or lead expeditions

into unknown regions will not be alarmed or discouraged by the honest and "faithful" manner in which the director of the Natural History Museum and the authors of the memoirs point out the imperfections of the records and specimens handed to them from the *Southern Cross*. It is essential, for the dignity of science and the self-respect of scientific men, that the responsibilities of those who set out with the avowed object of advancing science should be very plainly brought home to them.

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## ON A HITHERTO UNEXAMINED MANUSCRIPT OF JOHN DE PLANO CARPINI.

By C. RAYMOND BEAZLEY, M.A.

WHILE working lately in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, I came upon a manuscript (No. 181, pp. 279-321) hitherto unknown except by the bare mention of its title in Nasmith's and other catalogues, which seems to have a distinct interest and value. It contains, in the most complete form, the text of John de Plano Carpini's account of the Mongols, and of his journey to the Great Khan's court (A.D. 1245-7). The last chapter of Carpini's *Historia Mongalorum* has hitherto been supposed to exist only in the Leyden manuscript known as "Petau," from its old possessor Paul Petavius; and as this chapter is the record of Carpini's journey to Mongolia and back, it is more valuable than any of the eight that precede it. Now, the whole of this final chapter is to be found in the Corpus manuscript referred to, whose value was wholly unknown to the eminent French scholar M. d'Avezac, when he prepared his remarkable edition of Carpini for volume iv. of the Paris Geographical Society's *Recueil de Voyages et de Mémoires publié par la Société de Géographie*, 1839. Its worth and content were equally unknown to Thomas Wright, who collated in a strangely casual manner the London manuscript of Carpini (B. Mus., Reg. 13 A. XIV.) for this edition of the *Société de Géographie*. The aforesaid edition of 1839 is, of course, still the standard, and, indeed, the only recognizable one of this great Franciscan traveller, for the truncated and corrupt text printed by Hakluyt, and generally accepted till 1839, is unworthy of comparison with that exhibited in the manuscripts of "Petau" and "Corpus" and in the Paris text.

It may be added that the Corpus manuscript contains in several places fuller and more satisfactory readings even than "Petau." M. d'Avezac, no doubt guided by the information or want of information he received from England about Carpini manuscripts, evidently considered that another manuscript of the *Historia Mongalorum* existed in Cambridge, viz. No. 61 (or rather one in No. 61) in the collection of "Bennet" College; but this is the very same thing as one in No. 181 in the present numbering of the Corpus collection, 61 being the number in Edward Bernard's catalogue, now superseded by 181 in Nasmith's. It is strange that this simple verification seems never to have been made hitherto. According to Bernard, moreover (*Catalogi librorum manuscriptorum Angliae*