

SCIENCE

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THE IMPORTANCE AND THE PROMISE IN THE STUDY OF THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS.*

It is believed that for the advancement of science, no better service can be rendered by those of considerable experience as teach-

* Address of the Vice-President and Chairman of Section F, Zoology, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Columbus, August 21, 1899.

ers and investigators than to point out to their younger brethren lines of study and research which are, on the one hand, important, and on the other promising of results. I have, therefore, selected for the subject of this address before the section of zoology a plea for the study of the domestic animals. The young zoologist may rightfully ask the grounds for studying this heterogeneous, greatly modified series of animals. In the first place it must be confessed that for the animal kingdom as a whole it appeals mainly to a single one of the twelve phyla in the animal series given by Parker and Haswell—that is, to the vertebrates. The other eleven phyla—that is, the whole of the invertebrates except the arthropoda—are ignored. I wish to express very clearly and emphatically at the outset that the plea will not be made because the domestic animals seem to me alone worthy of study by zoologists, or that they are in all cases the best possible representatives of their group. It is most earnestly believed, however, that in the whole range of zoology no forms offer a greater reward for the study of the problems of life, especially in the higher groups, than the domestic animals. The importance of the study cannot be overestimated from a purely scientific standpoint, and certainly if the prosperity, happiness and advancement of the human race are put in the count the subject is of transcendent importance.

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