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VOL. LVII JUNE 29, 1923 No. 1487

<i>Ancient Fauna of Mongolia discovered by the Third Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History: DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN.....</i>		729
<i>Some Experimental Studies on the Central Nervous System: DR. H. S. BURR.....</i>		732
<i>The Maskell Collection of Coccidae: PROFESSOR ALEX. D. MACGILLIVRAY.....</i>		734
<i>Scientific Events:</i>		
<i>Shad Investigation in America; Pasteur Celebration in France; In Honor of Professor Morse; The Directorship of the Mount Wilson Observatory</i>		735
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>		737
<i>University and Educational Notes.....</i>		740
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>		
<i>The Preparation of Five Kilograms of Desiccated Euglena: DR. CHARLES E. BILLS. Syrphid Larvae as Pests: DR. R. W. DOANE. On the Vitality of Cotton Seed: DR. G. F. LIPSCOMB, G. L. CORLEY. Misuse of the Word "Creation" by Naturalists: DR. C. HART MERRIAM.....</i>		740
<i>Standardized Nomenclature of Biological Stains: H. J. CONN.....</i>		743
<i>Special Articles:</i>		
<i>Reverse Mutation of the Bar Gene, Correlated with Crossing-over: DR. A. H. STURTEVANT AND PROFESSOR T. H. MORGAN. The Absolute Values of the Electrical Moments of Atoms and Molecules: DR. R. D. KLEEMAN. Simple Milk Formulae: DR. DAVID WILBUR HOEN. Concerning the Vitamin B Content of the Velvet Bean: DR. J. W. READ</i>		746
<i>The American Chemical Society: DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS</i>		750
<i>The American Geophysical Union and Its Sections: DR. WILLIAM BOWIE.....</i>		754
<i>Science News</i>		viii

ANCIENT FAUNA OF MONGOLIA DISCOVERED BY THE THIRD ASIATIC EXPEDITION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY¹

It is a very significant fact in the history of palaeontology that the homeland, or chief center of evolution or adaptive radiation, of the mammals during the Age of Mammals and of the reptiles during the Age of Reptiles is the very last to be explored. Beginning with the first palaeontological work toward the close of the eighteenth century in Europe, continuing with the thorough exploration of Europe and southern Asia during the nineteenth century and with the wonderful discoveries in reptilian and mammalian history in North and South America from the middle of the nineteenth century onward, the homeland was still left untouched, unexplored. Discoveries in North America were so extensive and so revolutionary that many thought the homeland had been revealed in our great western fossil beds. Positive claims were advanced by Ameghino for Patagonia as the homeland of proboscidea and primates. As a residuum of these discoveries in the western hemisphere, it proves true that several orders of mammals did originate in the Americas, but the ancestral stock from which these orders radiated was still to be found. Speculation wavered between the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere and some zoologists advocated both hemispheres in so-called bipolar theories. Thus sprang up two new branches of science—Paleogeography and Paleometeorology—centering in more or less inductive and deductive schools of thought.

In 1889 the New York Academy of Sciences adopted a new rule, namely, that its presidency should be held not for long terms but for two-year terms, and a new condition of the presidency was the preparation of a serious presi-

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